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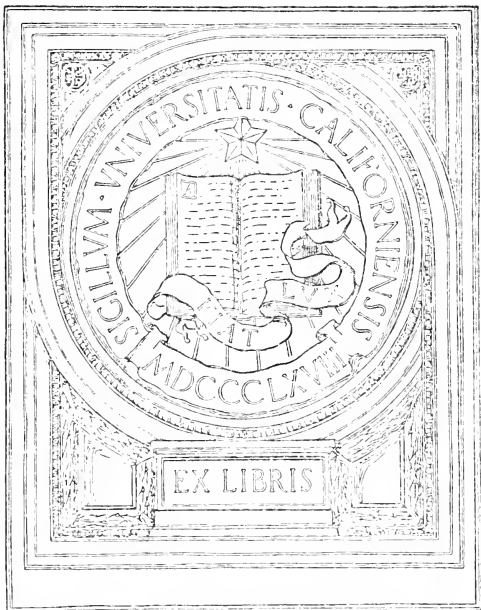


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ORTHOGRAHY  
REVIEW OF THE ORTHOGRAPHY  
SERIES OF BOOKS



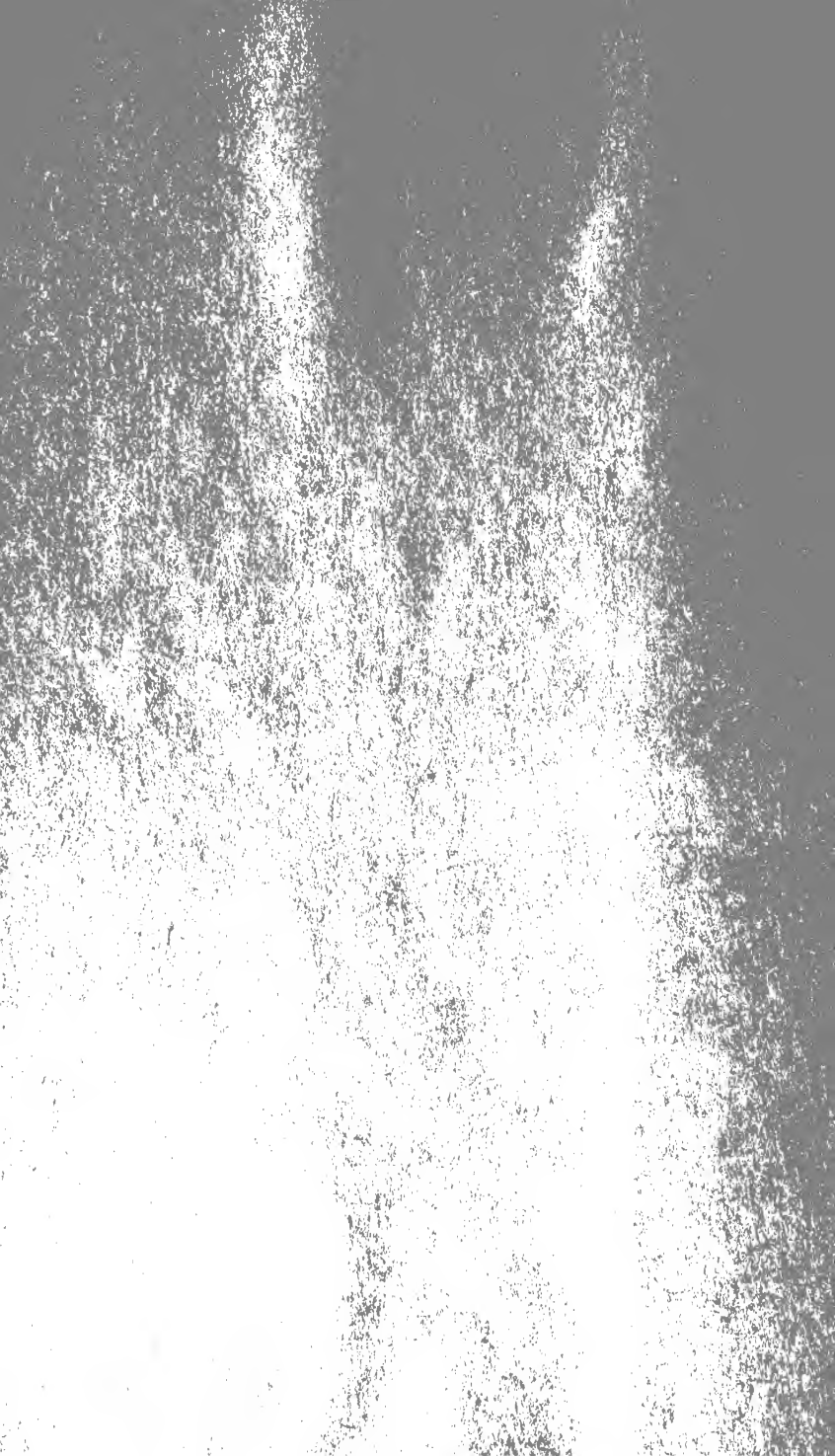
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ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN  
OF THE SOUTH  
WEST

A  
CRITICAL REVIEW

OF THE

ORTHOGRAPHY

OF

DR. WEBSTER'S SERIES OF BOOKS

FOR

SYSTEMATICK INSTRUCTION

IN THE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE;

INCLUDING

HIS FORMER SPELLING-BOOK,

AND THE

ELEMENTARY SPELLING-BOOK, COMPILED BY AARON ELY,

AND PUBLISHED UNDER THE NAME OF NOAH WEBSTER, LL. D.

---

BY LYMAN COBB.

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"Society is directly benefited by the inculcation of truth, and the suppression of error;" therefore examine.

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NEW YORK:

PUBLISHED BY COLLINS & HANNAY, 230 PEARL-STREET.

1831.

# ADVERTISEMENT.

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## TO THE PUBLICK.

THE importance of a correct and uniform system of orthography is universally admitted, and therefore requires neither argument nor elucidation. This subject has engaged the assiduous attention of the author of the following reviews, for the last twelve years; during which time, he has actually examined, compared, and marked the errors in nearly every publication upon this branch of our language, that has ever appeared either in this country or Great Britain. An important crisis has at last arrived, in relation to our elementary schools and seminaries of learning—a period when it becomes necessary for parents, and the great body of the American community, to decide whether they will continue to follow the systems of orthography and orthoepy hitherto in use, and based upon the analogies of the language, thereby promoting uniformity in the publications of our own and foreign countries; or will adopt a new and contradictory system of innovations, neither warranted by usage nor analogy, and calculated to “*abolish the superstructure, and bring it back to the confusion in orthography, from which Johnson extricated it.*”

It is the peculiar character of the American people, (a character formed from reading and habits of investigation,) to examine before they decide; and, in spreading before the republick of letters in the United States, these criticisms on the publications of Mr. Webster, the author only asks for that liberal indulgence and patient examination to which, from the importance of the subject, he believes them fully entitled.

It has been a primary object with Mr. Webster and his friends, to inculcate the belief, that the author, in publishing his former reviews of Mr. Webster's works, was actuated by personal feelings towards the author of the American Dictionary. The illiberality of this insinuation is only equalled by its want of candour; and, the author feels no reluctance in trusting the question of his motives, his rights, and the correctness and propriety of his strictures, with a nation of impartial and intelligent readers.

To those who are already wedded to the systems of orthography and orthoepy published by Mr. Webster, this publication will be important as an index to the disputable points, and the innovations and contrarieties of the American Lexicographer; and, to such as deem the uniformity and perpetuity of our vernacular language to be paramount to the private interests of an author, it will be useful in enabling them to form a correct estimate of the claims of those publications to the character of Standard Works.

In giving this review to the publick, the author has but one thing to regret; and that is, the necessity of communicating it, in many instances, through the medium of the Post Office, the only means of disseminating it over this widely extended republick. It is confidently believed, however, that a careful perusal will amply remunerate any individual for the trifling expense to which he may thus be subjected.

Respectfully,

THE AUTHOR.

\* \* It may be necessary to state, that whenever a quotation is given in this review, from the writings of Mr. Webster, his publishers, or his friends, the original orthography has been observed.



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# INTRODUCTION.

THE faculty of speech may be justly considered the leading characteristic that distinguishes man from inferior animals, places him at the head of animated nature, and stamps him with the seal of immortality. The science of language, therefore, must ever hold a distinguished place in the catalogue of useful knowledge; and, to the labours of those who have devoted their time and talents to the cultivation of our vernacular tongue, the friends of science, and the community at large, are deeply indebted.

There are few classes of literary men from whose labours society has derived more important benefits than from the class of eminent philologists and lexicographers, who, during the last century, have contributed so largely to the cultivation of the English Language; thereby laying the foundation of those highly polished effusions of sentiment for which the writings of the present age are distinguished. The names of Bailey, Ash, Johnson, Sheridan, Walker, Jones, Jameson, and Webster, will ever possess a distinguished niche in the gallery of literary men; and, their contributions to the stock of useful improvements will claim for them the appellation of fathers of English literature. But while I am thus ready and desirous to render to these the just tribute of gratitude for their eminent services in this department of learning, I am by no means disposed to concede the proposition, that their productions are to be exempt from the usual ordeal to which the writings of every other author are subjected, and which is the principal test of relative merit. I mean impartial and candid criticism.

With reference to works designed for elementary instruction, it is particularly important that this right should be admitted and sustained; since errors widely disseminated by these, have an influence more pernicious in itself, and more difficult to be counteracted, than when found in books adapted to mature minds. It has been supposed, however, that this right of examination is not common to every class of citizens—that one at least is and ought to be excluded from this right, though perhaps better qualified from taste, habit, and experience, than most others, for doing justice to the subject. This class comprehends *authors, compilers, and teachers*.\* While in the ordinary affairs of life, we daily resort to mechanical or professional men for their opinions in matters relating peculiarly to their business or profession, as the best evidence for forming a correct judgement, it is not a little surprising, it should for a moment be urged that in matters of science we should not credit the evidence, nay the undeniable facts, produced by an individual who "has had the misfortune" of writing and publishing upon the same subject, and, therefore, *may reasonably be supposed to know something about it*.

I trust I shall be excused for premising thus much in answer to what has already been urged, and will doubtless be reiterated, by Mr. Webster and his friends—that "I am the author of a Spelling-Book and School Dictionary, and am, therefore, incapacitated for doing justice to his literary productions." But

\* The Publisher of Webster's Dictionary, in a communication addressed to the Editor of the Boston Courier, and published in that paper, Sept. 23, 1829, makes the following *liberal* appeal to the publick, relative to the criticisms then recently published.  
"Dear Sir,—Some twenty or thirty days since, I believe, I was looking over a file of your paper, and fell upon a notice of some criticisms on Webster's Dictionary, which have appeared in the Morning Herald in this city. As I am interested as Publisher of this work, any review which I might give of it, would be out of place. But while I leave others to review the work, it is but justice to the public, as well as to myself, to state the facts concerning these criticisms. They appeared under the signature *Inquirer*. The author is a person by the name of Cobb, recently a schoolmaster, in one of our western villages, who has had the misfortune to compile a Spelling-Book, and small Dictionary."

EDUCATION  
AUG 7 42

without attempting to exonerate myself from this imputation, and without further remark relative thereto, I shall assume the right, and leave the result of my examinations to the intelligence and judgement of a discriminating community, to whose unerring decision, whether of condemnation or justification, I shall most cheerfully and readily submit.

Before entering upon the examination of the several works of Mr. Webster, it may not be impertinent to give a succinct chronological history of the causes and circumstances which have contributed to place the adherents of Walker and Webster in opposition to each other; and which have rendered this publication not only justifiable, but indispensable to the promotion of truth, and the protection of individual character and enterprise.

In detailing these, I shall commence at that period, when from experience in the use of Mr. Webster's Spelling-Book and School Dictionary in instructing, I became familiar with the "multitudinous errors," contradictions, and inconsistencies contained in them; and seeing the importance and necessity of a uniform standard, more particularly in orthography, I resolved both to give the result of my investigations to the publick in the way of criticism, and to employ my experience thus acquired, in the compilation of a work for elementary instruction. The former, so far as it relates to the then existing publications of Mr. Webster, was published in a series of numbers in the Albany Argus in 1827-8, and is now re-published in this general review. The result of my labours in the latter, has already been several years before the publick, from whom I have received many flattering evidences of a favourable opinion.

Whether that examination of the former works of Mr. Webster, was either ill-timed or unimportant, is left for others to determine; with this single remark—that it is confidently believed Mr. Webster himself will admit, that if those criticisms had never appeared, the recent compilation of the *Elementary Spelling-Book* would never have been deemed necessary.\*

In my examination, I had demonstrated the orthography of Webster to be far less uniform and analogous, than that of Johnson; and Walker's system of pronunciation, which was introduced into this country as early as 1800, had been very generally received, and was already becoming the Standard, in this branch of Philology. Hence it became manifest to the publishers of Webster, that some device must be resorted to, to induce apathy in the publick mind, and thereby procrastinate the inevitable crisis which they foresaw was approaching; the expulsion of his elementary works from our primary schools.

To prevent this, the author of the *American Spelling-Book* was despatched to England, that from "personal observation," he might be able to ascertain, or at least on his return to assert, that "Walker was wholly unknown," or if known at all, only in the circles of the vulgar: and, it was about the same

\* This inference will not be thought unreasonable, notwithstanding the allegation of Mr. Webster in his pamphlet, recently published, (page 9) that the *American Spelling-Book* "is to be suppressed," especially when taken in connexion with the fact, that most of the publishers of his Spelling-Books have reserved to themselves the privilege of publishing either, as shall be found most advantageous to their interests.

† It is truly amusing to observe the arguments advanced by Mr. Webster and his friends, to prove that Walker's Dictionary is *not* the Standard in England. At one time we are told that "Walker is not known in England;" at another time, that Mr. Webster "has made a visit to England to ascertain the real state of the language," where he found that "Walker's pronunciation was not used in any decent society in that country." Again; we are told by Mr. Webster that "Walker's Dictionary is full of inconsistencies from beginning to end; and the attempt to make it a Standard, has done more to corrupt the language than any event which has taken place for five hundred years past. No book is taken as an ultimate Standard in England; and Walker's pronunciation is so erroneous, that no less than three dictionaries have been published to correct it; all of them approaching much nearer to actual usage than Walker's."

Let us for a moment examine the *inconsistency and deception* in the above statement. First; if Walker be "*not known in England*," how could his pronunciation have so "*corrupted the language*?" Secondly; if Walker's Dictionary be *not* the Standard in England, why have "three dictionaries been published to correct it?" What evil could arise from the existence of the work, if it were not known or followed?

The fact is, Mr. Webster and his friends know that Walker's Dictionary is popular, and in general use in this country; and, unless they can divert the publick mind from this work, Webster's Dictionary must remain on the shelves of the booksellers. Thus they (Webster and his friends) endeavour to convince the *American* people that Jameson, a later writer than Walker, is more correct, because, it is said, his work is not known, or in use in this country! But Jameson's Dictionary, which was published to correct Walker's, (as stated by Mr. Webster,) contains twice as many contradictions and inconsistencies as Walker's; and I challenge Mr. Webster or his friends to show that his statement is untrue.

time announced in the journals of the day, that Mr. Webster would soon publish a Dictionary that would contain a specifick for all the deficiencies, discrepancies, and anomalies, not only in the former works of Mr. Webster, but of all other authors, and would form an *unvarying* STANDARD of the orthography and orthoepy of the English language. Nor was this all that was fondly anticipated from the promised labours of the American Philologist. A new series of Elementary Works for the use of schools was immediately to emanate from this immutable Standard, which should be divested of the inaccuracies, contradictions, and absurdities of *Johnson, Walker, Jameson*, and others—publications which should correspond in their orthography and pronunciation with the Standard and with one another, and thereby produce what is universally admitted to be a desideratum—uniformity in this department of Philology.

In order more emphatically to forestall publick opinion in relation to this forthcoming work, the friends of Mr. Webster re-published in this city under the title of *Red Book*, (originally an English publication,) *Bearcroft's Practical Orthography*; in which the unpublished Quarto Dictionary of Mr. Webster was lauded with fulsome and extravagant praise, although the panegyrist admitted "that he had seen only the introductory part of the work.\*"

The effect of these measures was such as might naturally be expected. All further competition and investigation were for a time arrested, while his friends waited with sanguine confidence the appearance of the promised Standard. The literary qualifications of its author became generally admitted—the works of the great English lexicographers, with their "palpable inconsistencies and preposterous anomalies," were spread before him; a long and liberal patronage had relieved him from those pecuniary embarrassments,† which he had attributed to Johnson as a prolific source of error; and the favourable opinion every where entertained of his judgement and experience combined to secure a general acquiescence in the belief, that all these important considerations would be realized in the Quarto Dictionary. Added to these, the influence of an extensive, aristocratical, and persevering class of booksellers, whose interests were already to a large amount identified with the success of Mr. Webster, and whose sensibility and vigilance were graduated by the amount of capital they had invested in his works, all contributed to usher the quarto before the community under the most favourable auspices. It is now about three years since it was published. It has become the property of the community so far as its claims to a Standard work are concerned; and though the most unwearied pains have been taken by Mr. Webster and his friends to puff it in newspapers and periodicals, though by lecturing in every city and village, and by personally applying to Members of Congress and others, he has been able to procure the recommendations of many men, eminent for their literature, in different parts of the United States, yet I shall, in the following pages, show, beyond

\* I should not now condescend to notice this ephemeral production of the Websterian school, did I not feel it my duty to bestow a passing remark upon the unbounded and illiberal charges contained in that work, that the dictionaries of Johnson and Walker are more erroneous than those of Webster—a statement equally unjust and untrue, as I shall abundantly prove hereafter. It is not unworthy of remark, that at the very time this same *Red Book* was thus lending its aid and influence to blacken the fame of the illustrious dead, and to pave the way for the innovations of Mr. Webster, the American editor of that work expressed to me his entire want of confidence in the qualifications of Mr. Webster as a lexicographer, and his anxious forebodings that the expected publication would disappoint his friends. I was at that time engaged in writing the review of Mr. Webster's old *Spelling-Book*, before alluded to, and at the request of the editor of the *Red Book*, furnished him with a "marked copy of Mr. Webster's *Spelling-Book*," which, by some means, found its way to Mr. Webster's library, as he subsequently admitted; but whether, by this means, Mr. Webster profited from my labours, it is not now important to inquire.

† Mr. Webster, in the preface prefixed to his dictionary, published in 1805, page 19, when speaking of Dr. Johnson, stated, that "to assign the causes of these defects, is by no means difficult. We are told in the accounts of Johnson's life, that he was almost always depressed by disease and poverty; that he was naturally indolent, and seldom wrote until he was urged by want, or the necessity of fulfilling his engagements with his bookseller. Hence it happened, that he often received the money for his writings before his manuscripts were prepared. Then, when called upon for copy, he was compelled to prepare his manuscripts in haste; and it may be reasonably supposed, that, in some instances, they were sent to the press in an unfinished state. These facts, while they may account for by no means excuse the multitude of errors in his dictionary."

the possibility of contradiction, and, I trust, in the spirit of candid and liberal criticism, that it is, in its orthography, far less accurate than the Dictionaries of Johnson and Walker, and in this respect less entitled to the character of a Standard work.

Shortly after the publication of the quarto, Mr. Webster made an effort to redeem the pledge given by his friends relative to the series of class-books for systematick instruction, and for that purpose employed Mr. Aaron Ely of this city to compile the *Elementary Spelling-Book*. \* Uniformity in orthography, it must not be forgotten, was the important quality which this series of books was to possess over all others; and it was, therefore, reasonable to expect that the first of the series would correspond with the quarto, especially in all those words whose orthography Mr. Webster claimed to have improved and rendered consistent with analogy. With what degree of fidelity this pledge has been redeemed, the community will be enabled to judge from the fact, that the compiler (Mr. Ely) has thought it prudent to omit many of those words, the orthography of which Mr. Webster has changed; and in other cases, he has followed the orthography of Johnson in opposition to that of Webster.

It is not a little surprising that, notwithstanding the repeated asseverations of Mr. Webster and his friends, both before the publication of the quarto, and while the *Elementary Spelling-Book* was being prepared for the press, that "WALKER'S DICTIONARY WAS UNKNOWN IN ENGLAND," Mr. Ely was wont to claim as a matter of merit for that compilation, that it was made from Walker's Rhyming Dictionary, and that it was from that work he derived the system of classification by the terminations. It is not less a matter of surprise, that the publisher of the Octavo, while he endeavours to create the belief that this illustrious author is unknown, or is disrespected in his native country, has the matchless effrontery to insert at length in that edition, "WALKER'S KEY TO THE CLASSICAL PRONUNCIATION OF GREEK, LATIN, AND SCRIPTURE PROPER NAMES."

The last effort of the great American Lexicographer is the Duodecimo Dictionary, designed as the codicil to his other publications, and contains, as he alleges, "the pointing, orthography, and pronunciation which he most approves." Now, should it turn out, that this publication is at variance with the STANDARD, (to wit, the *quarto*;) with the *octavo*, and with the *Elementary Spelling-Book*, it must be conceded, that either the works of his meridian thought, or those of his dotage, are not entitled to confidence. This inconsistency I unhesitatingly declare to be the fact, and pledge myself to prove it in the following examination.

I regret, in closing this Introduction, the necessity of animadverting upon the malveulent and unwarrantable aspersions in which Mr. Webster has thought proper to indulge, in a pamphlet recently published by him, containing the recommendations to his Series of Books, accusing others of plagiarism, and dignifying them with the appellation of "PEDDLING COMPILERS," when it is notorious that for the last three years, he has been making tours through the country, and by appeals to the sympathies of individuals, has succeeded in procuring for his works an introduction to which their comparative merits would never have entitled them. The propriety of such a course for proselyting, and for procuring the names of individuals, as recommendatory, whose opportunity and business totally disqualify them for giving an opinion founded upon knowledge, may reasonably be questioned, a course which it is humbly conceived would never be resorted to, were personal feelings had not usurped the reins of reason and candour.

New York, October 10, 1831.

LYMAN COBB.

\* The following extract is taken from the advertisement published in the New York Commercial Advertiser, Dec. 15, 1829, by Mr. Joseph McKen, who was Secretary of the meeting of the teachers in this city, when the report in favour of Mr. Webster's *Elementary Spelling-Book* was rejected by a large majority.

"That Mr. Ely was engaged to perform this service for Dr. Webster at the compensation of 1000 dollars, I could say on the authority of E. W. Morse and A. M. Merchant, two gentlemen on whose veracity will not be questioned in this community, both of them warm friends of Dr. Webster. He also the evidence of Mr. Ely himself, that he did so compile the book; and, that for compensation in finding words, &c. for his terminations, he had used Walker's Rhyming Dictionary, a London edition of 1824, that he sent the manuscript sheets to Dr. Webster at New Haven, and that Dr. Webster was pleased with the result of a perusal, and that he had written him a complimentary letter. Mr. Ely was a sedate and religious man, and could have had no opportunity of so gross a representation."

† The following editorial article, which appeared in the *Telegraph*, on the 1st of April, 1831, so fully corresponds with my views upon this subject, that I have made a free use of it in the following article.

"We find in the *Washington Telegraph*, a public notice of the proceedings of the members of Congress to the merits of Webster's Dictionary, recommending it as a new standard of orthography, and a standard of the language."

"Without meaning any disrespect to the gentleman who presided at this conference, we must say that we do not think it will do the Dictionary any good. We never members of Congress to make our laws, but not to make our language. It is their province to admit the coins of gold and silver, but not the accents on words, to give currency to coins, but not to vocables. The English language is fixed, and it is not they alone in their speeches in Congress and addresses to their friends at home—a privilege which none of them push to its ultimate limits; but it is not for them to dictate to their constituents in what manner they shall use it. Among the names subscribed to the certificate in the *Telegraph*, there may be some three or four gentlemen whose opinion on the subject deserves respect, as the opinion of men who have studied our language critically; but as to the list in general, it is not more entitled to attention for its authority in a matter of language, than one that would be obtained by going from this office through Pine-street to Broadway, and calling at the door on each side, in making the remarks, 'We are of no opinion on the subject of the dictionary.' If desired to make it any sort of authority, it must be supported by the suffrages of men deeply versed in the language, who have given the work an attentive examination—a task of no slight labour, requiring a great deal of leisure."

REVIEW  
OF  
WEBSTER'S QUARTO DICTIONARY.

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THE most prominent innovation in the orthography of Mr. Webster's Dictionary, is the omission of *k* in the numerous class of words which end in *ck* in Johnson's Dictionary. This innovation is considered by Mr. Webster a great *improvement* on the score of *uniformity*.

Of this class of words, there are in our language (acknowledged by Mr. Webster in his dictionaries) about *five hundred*: of these, Mr. Webster has terminated about *three hundred and twenty* with *c only*; and about *one hundred and eighty* with the *c* and *k* both! quite a "*uniformity*" indeed! Yet he has stated, that "Johnson's orthography, which some compilers follow, has been, in several classes of words, *corrected* by modern writers; as by the omission of *u* in *error, candor, superior*; and *k* in *public, music, &c.* I have extended this correction to ALL the words of these classes, with a view to UNIFORMITY; and have corrected a few other palpable errors in the common orthography!" The candid reader can judge whether he has that "*uniformity*."

I will now offer some remarks as to the *propriety* or *impropriety* of this *innovation*, in omitting *k* in this class of words. If we refer to the languages from which these words were derived, we shall find a very great *variety* of terminations, entirely void of *uniformity*, as *c, ck, cke, cus, que, cen, cken, cean, cca, ca, cian, ccc, &c.*; so that every person will, it is presumed, perceive the necessity of *uniformity* in this class of words in our language, and conclude that *all* should end with *c only*, or *all* with *ck*; as the *pronunciation* of the syllable would be the same in either case. I will also attempt to point out the difficulties which would result, should this class of words end with *c only*, as *blac, loc, attac, frolic, mimic, physic, &c.*; or should the *c* (being a redundant letter in the language, or merely a representative, and consequently in this termination *ck*) be omitted, and the words end with *k only*, as *blak, lok, pak, attak, &c.* First; it has been observed that the pronunciation of the syllables would be the same, whether the words should end with *ck* or with *c only*; but as we form derivatives from them by adding *ing, ed, or cr*, the *c* would be pronounced like *s* in these derivatives, agreeably to the invariable rule in the language, of pronouncing *c* like *s* before *e, i, and y*; (and without which distinct rule, the pronunciation of *c* in our language could never be learned, as it is used indiscriminately before *a, o, and v, and e, i, and y*;) so that the sound of the primitive syllable, or word, would be lost in the derivative; as *back, bac, bac-ing, bac-ed*, pronounced *bak, bas-ing, bas-ed*; *attack, attac, attac-ing, attac-ed*, pronounced *attas-ing, attas-ed*; *frolic, frolic-ing, frolic-ed*, pronounced *frolis-ing, frolis-ed*; *physic, physic-ing, physic-ed*, pronounced *physis-ing, physis-ed, &c. &c.*; for if the *k* be not in the primitive, we may not insert it in the derivative, any more than we may *æ* or *z*, agreeably to any rule of spelling derivatives. Secondly; if *c* (the redundant letter in this termination) should be omitted in the primitive words, we must double the *k* in forming the derivatives from the words of this class, of one syllable, or those accented on the last syllable, agreeably to the established rule of the language, in forming derivative words, which is, that a consonant which ends a monosyllable or a word accented on the last syllable, preceded by a single vowel, should be doubled, when a syllable is added beginning with a vowel; as *rob, robbing, robbed, debar, debarring, debarred, &c.*; consequently thus, *back, bak, bakking, bakked*; *black, blakker, blakken, blakking, blakked*; *attack, attak, attackking, attackked, &c.*, which would appear very awkward, as *kk* are not in English, and it would also be more difficult to write *kk* than *ck*. Hence it appears evident that the "*uniformity*" of which Mr. Webster speaks so highly, should consist in spelling all these words with *ck* in the primitives, and that great difficulty and perplexity would result from any other "*uniformity*" in the orthography of this numerous class of words. The *k* should end all these words, and should be retained in all derivatives, except when the *k* is followed by *a, o, or u*, (unless the *c* be sounded like *s* in the derivative;) as *mimick, mimicking, mimicked, physick, physicking, physicked, frolick, frolicking, frolicked, lucky, &c.*; but not in *physical, publication, &c.*, as the *c* comes before *a*, and is hard like *k*, the *k* need not be retained. Mr. Webster must have lost sight of this rule, and the above reasons, or else he is *willful* respecting them, or he would not, in speaking of this class of words, have stated in his introduction, that "to add *k* after *c* in such words (speaking of *musick, publick, and republican, &c.*) is beyond measure absurd, for both have the same power, having been formed from the same original character," and that "they never proceeded so far as to carry the absurdity through the derivatives; never writing *publickation, musickal, rhetorickal.*" Yet Mr. Webster has carried the "*absurdity*" so far as to spell *truffickable* with *k*, in which it should have been *omitted*

for the same reason that *k* is omitted in *publickation*, viz. the *a* follows *ck*, and consequently the *c* is hard as in the primitive without *k*!

Let us farther examine Mr. Webster's orthography of this class of words for the purpose of ascertaining whether he has that "uniformity" which "is a prime excellence in the rules of language," or whether he is one of that class of "modern" writers who "fortunately, have rejected *k* from words in which it is useless." And first; with regard to *uniformity* in the orthography of these words. I have already stated that he HAS RETAINED the *k* in about one hundred and eighty of the five hundred words of this class, so that no person will "contend" that he has that "uniformity"! Secondly; with regard to Mr. Webster's rejection of *k* "from words in which it is useless." As Mr. Webster has spoken in such strong terms of the "prime excellence" of "uniformity," we might reasonably suppose that he would have retained *k* in all these words, or would have omitted it in all, from which we never form derivatives; yet he has not in the retention of *k* in the one hundred and eighty words, or in the expulsion of it in the three hundred and twenty, paid any regard to these principles: for instance; he has retained *k* in many words in which it is followed by *e* or *i* in forming derivatives, as lock, stock, attack, traffick, frolick, ransack, &c.; and he has omitted it in words of the same class! as physic, and garlic, without *k*, from which physicking, physicked, and garlickeater, are formed. He has spelled garlickeater without *k*, which must, agreeably to his "directions for the pronunciation of words," be pronounced garliseater, as he says, "before *e*, *c* is precisely equivalent to *s*." Under the word unphysicked he has spelled physicked with *k*, though he has not *k* in physisic! Mr. Webster has spelled mimic, when a noun, without *k*, and with it when a verb; yet he has made no such distinction in the words frolick and traffick, having spelled them with *k* in both cases! and he has spelled these three words in this contradictory manner in the definitions of the same words! This innovation makes another "anomaly" in our language, that of spelling the noun and verb differently, when they are pronounced alike. Again, he has retained *k* in many words from which no derivatives are formed; as almanack, bailiwick, barrack, bassock, bullock, buttock, frock, girroek, haddock, hattock, hemlock, hillock, hollyhock, jannoek, linstock, mattock, paddock, pollock, peacock, puddock, shamrock, &c.; and he has omitted the *k* in words of the same class! as bishopric, candoc, carac, cammoc, cambric, hammoc, hommoc, hassoc, limbec, puttoc, tussoe, &c.

Again; he has inserted *k* after *c* in some derivatives, in which *c* is followed by a consonant; as frolickly, frolicksome, frolicksomeness, trackless, &c.; and has omitted it in others of the same class! as frantiness, mimicry, publicly, publicness, &c.!

And again; he has also inserted *k* after *c* in some compound words, as almanack-maker, barrack-master, &c. and has omitted the *k* in other words of the same class! as panic-grass, public-spirited, &c.!

Thus Mr. Webster, instead of a "uniformity" in the orthography of these words, has spelled them in such a manner as to produce every species of contradiction and inconsistency imaginable, and very great defect and perplexity in the formation of many derivatives; yet Johnson and Walker, whom Mr. Webster has so strongly censured for their retaining the *k*, have by the retention of the *k* in all this class of words, observed a system of orthography which is uniform and consistent, and avoids the defect and perplexity which would result in the formation of derivatives, should the *k* be omitted. It is quite surprising that Mr. Webster should have condemned Johnson and Walker's retention of *k*, and of not observing uniformity, when they are uniform and consistent in these words, and he has not observed either uniformity or consistency in any one particular!! In this retention of *k*, Johnson and Walker are supported by the following lexicographers, viz. Bailey, Sheridan, Perry, (original, not American editions) Jones, Jameson, (published in London 1827,) Allison, and Todd's Johnson (published in Boston 1828,) edited by J. E. Worcester. This omission of *k* in some words is said to be a great improvement, and it is made the subject of every newspaper article written by Mr. Webster or his friends, and is particularly dwelt on by him in his lectures and speeches, in favour of his system, in opposition to Johnson and Walker. But it is utterly impossible for any person to adopt all the contradictions and inconsistencies which Mr. Webster has in the orthography of this class of words, as has been fully shown, it is believed. It is the practice with many writers, editors, and printers, to omit the *k* in some of these words, and retain it in others, without any apparent regard to uniformity; but it is presumed that no person, after having thoroughly examined the principles of our language, will pursue this system of spelling (merely for the sake of convenience) which is void of consistency and uniformity, and produces perplexity in the formation of many derivatives.

The second innovation in Mr. Webster's orthography, claimed as a great improvement, is the omission of *u* in the unaccented termination *our*, as labour, honour, vigour, inferiour, &c. The "reasons" assigned in support of this omission of *u*, contrary to our most approved English lexicographers, are, that "there is inconvenience, if not impropriety, in writing labour with *u*, but laborious without it: as also rigour, but rigorous; vigour, invigorate; inferiour, inferiority, &c. We deem it most correct and most convenient, to restore the original Latin orthography." To me, the above "reasons" seem to be not well founded; for, reasoning from the same analogy, we might condemn the "impropriety" of inserting

*e* in curious, generous, pompous, &c. when it is not in curiosity, generosity, pomposity, &c.; *i* in declaim, exclaim, explain, proclaim, repair, villain, grain, &c. but not in declamation, exclamation, explanation, proclamation, reparation, villainy, granary, &c.; also the "impropriety" of inserting *a* in congeal, reveal, &c., but not in congelation, revelation, &c. &c., in all of which, and in numerous others of similar analogy, Mr. Webster has inserted letters in one word (the primitive) which are not in the other (the derivative,) precisely as Johnson, Walker, and all other lexicographers have. In fact, there are numerous letters in our language, many of which are necessary in the primitive words, others are unnecessary; as final *e* in waste, name, hate, fertile, servile, &c.; final *n* in autumn, condemn, &c.; *u* in labour, rigour, generous, &c. Of these many are useless in forming the derivative words, as *e* in wasting, hating, fertility, servility, &c.; *u* in laborious, rigorous, generosity, &c.; and others are necessary, as *n* in autumnal, condemnation, &c. Again; many words are spelled differently from others of a like or similar pronunciation, by the use of a different letter which shall be made to convey the same sound by common consent, or by the retention of silent letters in many words which shall distinguish one word from another, both to the reader and hearer; as rein, reign, rain; bot, boat, bought; men, mean, mien; the, thee, they; rite, right, write, wright; past, paste; revel, reveal; morning, mourning; pus, puss; man, main; wet, weight; bran, brain, brawn, &c. &c. Hundreds of other letters might have been expunged by Mr. Webster with as much and even more propriety than the *k* and *u* in the two preceding classes of words; for, these are the most objectionable classes which could possibly have been selected by him, as he has not, and could not, render them either *uniform* or *consistent*. Again, Mr. Webster has stated that "this orthography (the retention of *ou*) is not calculated to exhibit the English pronunciation." In the preceding declaration Mr. Webster was under a great *mistake*; for this unaccented *ou* is pronounced like *u* short; consequently when the *u* is retained (as it should be) the *o* is silent and the *u* is sounded short, as in the original, agreeably to the rule of pronouncing this unaccented diphthong *ou* (and other diphthongs unaccented, which is, that the first vowel should be silent, and the latter sounded, as *ui* in biscuit, *ei* in foreign, *ai* in bargain, &c. &c.) in all the terminations *ous* and *our*. This principle is acknowledged by Mr. Webster in his Spelling-Book, in which he has *o* italicized in the termination *ous*, and *u* Roman, as pious, grievous, &c. and in the word behaviour! which pointedly *contradicts* his statement above; viz. that the retention of the *u* "is not calculated to exhibit the English pronunciation." Hence if Mr. Webster wished to make an *innovation* which would be an *improvement*, he should have omitted the *o* and retained the *u*; but he has retained the *o* which should be omitted, (if either,) and is silent [see the words behaviour, page 91; heinous, pious, p. 46; glorious, previous, p. 59; in his Spelling-Book,] and which must have the sound of the *u* (short) which he expunged! and he has expunged the *u* which was sounded! In his expulsion of *u* in this unaccented *ou*, we find the same *consistency* and *uniformity* which characterize his expulsion of *k* in the termination *ck*, as he has omitted the *u* in about fifty words ending in *our*, and has retained it in the same unaccented diphthong in about six hundred words ending in *ous*! The *u* in this unaccented termination *our*, is retained in this class of words by those lexicographers who spell the words which end in *ck* uniformly, viz. Bailey, Sheridan, Perry, Jones, Jameson, Todd's Johnson, &c.

The third innovation in Mr. Webster's orthography, which he claims to be a very *particular improvement*, is the termination of the class of words which end in *re* in all other dictionaries. In the orthography of this class of words, in which the termination *re* is preceded by a consonant, Mr. Webster has made a number of variations, and has many *contradictions* and *inconsistencies*. He has spelled accouter, amphitheater, center, concenter, fiber, luster, maneuver, meter, miter, ocher, scepter, sepulcher, specter, and verteber, with *er* only! and he has spelled ombre and ombre, saltpeter and saltpetre, peter and petre, theater and theatre, saber and sabre, both ways, with *er* and *re*!

Again; he has spelled belleslettres, chancre, electre, livre, and lucre, with *re* only! He has also spelled acre with *re*, and aker with *er*! and has given aker the preference, as "the most correct orthography," yet he has written it *acre* in the definition of *rood*! He has spelled massacer and massacre, with *er* and *re*! and, although he has placed *massacer* first, yet he has given *massacre* in the definition of the word itself! Thus we find *inconsistency* and a want of *uniformity* in the orthography of this class of words, having all *contradictions* possible, as he has spelled part of them with *er*, or *re* only, and part of them with *er* and *re* both! one with *cer*, and one with *ker*! It is indeed surprising, that Mr. Webster has spelled these words in such a *contradictory* manner. Why he has spelled acre, aker, with *ker*, and not lucre and chancre, luker and chanker, with *ker* also, when all of them end in *ere*; and farther, why he has spelled massacer, *cer*, aker, *ker*, when these four end in *ere*, can not be easily seen! Great perplexity would arise in the formation of derivatives from words of this class should they end in *er*; but when they end in *re*, we drop the final *e*, when we form derivatives by adding a syllable or a part of a syllable, as we do in forming derivatives from other words which end in *e*, and thereby render them regular in their formation; thus centre, centrick; fibre, fibrous; lustre, lustrous; nitre, nitrous; sepulchre, sepulchral, &c.; but they must be formed in a very awkward manner when these words end in *er*, as center, centrick; luster, lustrous; sepulcher, sepulchral, &c. Mr. Webster has, when

speaking of this class of words in his introduction, observed, that "in the present instance want of *uniformity* is not the only evil. The present orthography has introduced an awkward mode of writing the derivatives, for example, centred, sceptred, sepulchred." Yet he has himself "introduced" this "awkward mode of spelling derivatives" in the word *acred*, which he has spelled *cred*; and agreeably to analogy, he must spell massacred, *cred*, unless he shall adopt his new orthography of massacre, in which case it would be pronounced massasered! as "c, before e, is precisely equivalent to s." The *r* is transposed in the pronunciation of the word *acred* (as he has spelled it) as it is, and should be, in centred, sceptred, &c., and so the words should be spelled. The same *inconsistency* which he has fallen into in spelling *acred* and massacred, *red*; and centered and sceptered, *cred*, we shall find in other derivatives formed from words in this class; thus chance, chancrous; and niter, nitrous, *ous*; and ocher, ocherous, *erous*! But if these words be spelled with *re*, no perplexity or inconsistency will then exist in the formation of derivatives.

Johnson and Walker, and the other lexicographers above referred to, retain the *re* in these words, and are *consistent* and *uniform*, whereas, from the preceding exposition, it will appear that Mr. Webster is not.

I have taken notice of three prominent "innovations" in the orthography of three different classes of words, in the AMERICAN DICTIONARY, viz. words which end in *ck*, in unaccented *our*, and in *re*. These "innovations" were adopted by Mr. Webster in his former dictionaries, and in his Spelling-Book, although at variance with Johnson, Walker, &c. as it has been shown.

I will now take notice of some of his *new* "innovations," and show that the same *inconsistency* and want of *uniformity* exist in their orthography as in the classes of which notice has been taken.

Of the class of words which end in *ff*, (not monosyllables,) Mr. Webster has spelled many with *ff*, and others with single *f*; as bailiff, caiff, dandruff, mastiff, plaintiff, pontiff, restiff, sheriff, and tariff, with single *f*; distaff, hippogriff, and midriff, with *ff*! Bailiff, caiff, dandruff, and mastiff, are spelled with *ff* in the text, but he has corrected them in his "corrections" at the close of his dictionary, by spelling them with single *f*! Thus he has *nine* with single *f*, and *three* with *ff*! He has spelled bailiff with single *f* in his "corrections," but he has spelled boundbailiff and bumbailiff with *ff*, and in the definition of bumbailiff he has also used underbailiff with *ff*! He has spelled pontiff with single *f*, and archpontiff with *ff*; and in the definition of archpontiff, he has spelled pontiff with *ff*! but in the definition of pontiff he has spelled it with single *f*! He has spelled deputysheriff with *ff*, and undersheriff with single *f*; and in defining deputysheriff he has sheriff with *ff*, but in defining undersheriff he has sheriff with single *f*! In his "corrections" he has spelled *clif* with single *f*, but in his text he has all of the other monosyllables of this class with *ff*, as cuff, buff, puff, skiff, &c.

Thus we see that Mr. Webster is extremely *inconsistent* and *contradictory* in the orthography of this class of words. Johnson, Walker, Todd, Jameson, &c. &c. have spelled all of these words with *ff*, and have preserved *consistency* and *uniformity*; and even Mr. Webster himself spelled all these words with *ff* in his two former dictionaries, published in 1806 and 1817. It is the custom in our language to write *ff* and *ss* in many cases where all other consonants would be single, particularly in unaccented terminations, as bailiff, sheriff, &c. harass, compass, &c. If Mr. Webster would be *consistent*, he should omit one *s* in the words harass, embarrass, compass, &c. &c. as *ss* is as "unnecessary" in the words of this class, as *ff* is in the class of words in which he has expunged an *f*! But he seems not to have taken *consistency* into the account at all in making his innovations.

In speaking of the class of words which end in *ence* or *ense*, Mr. Webster has observed, that "defense, expense, offense, pretense, recompense, should be spelled with *s*, for this letter must be used in the derivatives, defensive, expensive, pretension, recompensing. Uniformity is here a great convenience." But has Mr. Webster by this change of *c* to *s*, in two or three words, produced "uniformity" throughout the language? He has retained *c* in fence, trance, &c. so that the same "anomalies" appear in his, as in other dictionaries. Thus fence, trance, fenceless, fencible, tranced, &c., with *c*; and offenseless, defensible, entranced, &c., with *s*! If he intended to produce "uniformity," he should have spelled all these words with *c* or *s* only. Again; he has spelled entrance (when a verb) with *s*, but he has spelled disentrance with *c*, and he has spelled the derivatives of each in this *contradictory* manner, as entrancing, entranced, with *s*, and disentrancing, disentranced, with *c*! He has also, in defining the word entrance, spelled transe with *s*, but in defining disentrance, he has spelled transe with *c*! Thus every possible *contradiction* and want of "uniformity" in this class of words also.

In the orthography of the word *ache* and its compounds and derivatives, Mr. Webster has a number of "anomalies and innovations" which are void of *consistency* and *uniformity*; for instance, he has spelled *ache* and *ake*, with *ch* and *k*, and has given *ake* the preference; but in all the compounds he has *ch*, as bellyache, boneache, headach, heartach, and toothache! He has spelled aching and aking, with *ch* and *k*, without giving a preference, but he has spelled unaking but *one* way, with *k* only! He has, in defining *ake*, spelled toothake and headake with *k*, but in the text has spelled them toothache and headach, with *ch*! He has



spelled bellyache, boneache, and toothache, with final *e*, and headach and heartach without it! He has spelled headach, in the text, without final *e*, and with it in the definition of the word *angor*! Thus he has spelled headach three different ways! In this list of words, seven in number, Mr. Webster has five contradictions and inconsistencies!

The next "innovations" in the orthography of this work, of which I shall take notice, are those in the words which usually end in *l* or *ll*.

Mr. Webster has observed, that befall, install, recall, foretell, distill, fulfill, &c., should end with *ll*. The "reasons" given are, that "the orthography, befall, recal, instal, (single *l*,) leads to a false pronunciation. This is not the case with foretel, &c., but in all such words, the last consonant *must* be doubled in the derivation, foretelling, distillery, distiller, and a rule is more convenient than a rule and an exception."

The foregoing "reason" in favour of ending foretell, distill, fulfill, &c., with *ll*, instead of single *l*, viz. "that the last consonant *must* be doubled in the derivation, foreteller, distiller," &c., is very novel and singular, and seems not to be supported either by analogy or custom; for unless *l* be a privileged letter, there can be no better "reason" given in support of doubling that letter in distill, extill, &c., than in favour of doubling *r* in debar, *n* in trepan, *t* in admit, &c. &c., because the *r*, *n*, and *t* "must be doubled in the derivation," debarring, trepanning, admitting, &c.; and Mr. Webster's practice is far from acknowledging *l* as a privileged letter, as he has not given it so much privilege as other lexicographers have, for he has spelled counselor, traveler, &c., with single *l* instead of *ll*, as all others have spelled them. Although the preceding "reasons" are given as conclusive arguments in favour of doubling final *l* in these words, yet we find the same inconsistencies and contradictions in the orthography of this class of words, which characterize the other "innovations" and intended "improvements" in the orthography of the language, of which notice has been taken. Thus he has spelled distill, extill, foretell, instill, with *ll*, and compel, dispel, expel, excel, impel, propel, rebel, (verb,) refel, repel, with single *l*! and the *l* is doubled, and "must be in the derivations" of all these words alike! Again; Mr. Webster has annul, disannul, with single *l*, contrary to the "reasons" above given, as the *l* "must be doubled in the derivations," annulling, annulling, disannulling, &c.; and he can not assign this as a "reason," that the *u* would be sounded as in *bull*, should the *l* be doubled, as *u* never has that sound when preceded by *n*! the orthography of these words then is a contradiction of his rule. Thus he has the following, with numerous other similar inconsistencies: annulment, disannulment, &c., with single *l*, and distillment, fulfillment, &c., with *ll*! He has spelled control, parol, bandrol, with single *l*, and enroll, disenroll, unroll, with *ll*! Thus we find the following inconsistencies: controlment with single *l*, and enrollment with *ll*! Johnson, Walker, Jameson, &c., have spelled these last three classes of words with single *l*, in the orthography of which they are consistent and uniform.

It is the custom with all lexicographers (except Mr. Webster) to omit one *l* in the derivatives and compounds of fill, full, skill, will, &c., thus fullness, sinfulness, skillful, wilful, skillfulness, &c.; but Mr. Webster has spelled fullness, skillful, willful, &c. with *ll*, though he has single *l*, in the last syllable of skillful, willful, &c. He cannot, with any degree of propriety, assert that *ll* are inserted in fullness, &c. to denote the sound of *u*, as the *u* has the same sound in fulfill, skillful, skillfulness, spoonful, handful, &c. in which it is followed by single *l*! Hence we observe that there is neither propriety nor consistency in this doubling of *l* by Mr. Webster in the compounds, above referred to, contrary to the established rules of the language, adhered to by all other lexicographers. Again; Mr. Webster has urged in favour of his system of orthography, that he has "abbreviated" and omitted "all useless" letters, as well as rendered the language "uniform;" but this insertion of another *l* in compounds in which it is both inconsistent, "useless," and not "uniform," is rather a novel way of abbreviating the language! Mr. Webster has stated that, "befall, install, &c. with single *l*, would lead to a false pronunciation;" yet he has spelled withal, therewithal, wherewithal, with single *l*, in which the *u* has the same sound as in befall, &c. precisely as Johnson, Walker, &c. have spelled them!

Again; he has spelled also, always, already, &c. with single *l*, (in which *a* has the broad sound,) just as Johnson, Walker, and other lexicographers have spelled them; and there is as much fear that "single *l* would lead to a false pronunciation," in these words as in the words in which he has doubled the *l*! Mr. W. has observed that *l* should not be doubled in cavilled, traveller, counsellor, &c. as it is in the dictionaries of Johnson, Walker, &c. and as it was in the two former dictionaries of Mr. Webster; but that these words should be spelled traveler, &c. with one *l*; yet he has spelled chapelling, bordeller, medallist, metalline, metallist, metallize, clavellated, &c. with *ll*, contrary to his rule! Again, he has spelled cancellation and snively with single *l*, and cupellation, pannellation, wittolly, with *ll*! And he has also spelled counsellor with *ll*, contrary to his text, in defining each of the following words, twice under apply, three times under attorney, and under aulic; traveller with *ll*, contrary to his text, in defining baggage and bourn; counselling with *ll* contrary to his text, in defining abetting; fulfillment with single *l* contrary to his text, in defining accomplishment, assets, and bilk; caviller, empannelled, duelling, modelling, driveller, with *ll*, contrary to his text, in defining findfault, charter, contemptible, fated, and drivel; and these words above noted, spelled contrary to his text in his definitions, he has there spelled agreeably to Johnson,

Walker, Jameson, &c.!! Thus we see in this as in all the other "innovations" of Mr. Webster, he has *contradictions* and *inconsistencies* in every possible form!

In the omission of one *l* in counselor, traveler, &c. Mr. Webster seems not to be supported by analogy; for the letter *l* is and always has been a *privileged* letter, as well as *f* and *s*, being doubled in cases where no other consonants are doubled, as ball, fell, will, roll, bull, puff, pass, puss, &c.; but cab, lad, leg, ram, ran, rap, far, met; &c. &c. have the consonants *b, d, g, m, n, p, r, t*, &c. single in the same situation. Thus in words of more than one syllable, bailiff, tariff, harass, embarrass, &c. the *f* and *s* are doubled, in the primitive and derivative words. So with *l* in the words counselor, traveller, &c. &c. it is doubled in the derivative although single in the primitive counsel, travel, &c. for the *l* is a liquid letter, easily uniting with other letters, and has not in any situation in the language, the power of shortening the sounds of the vowels which precede it. This is the reason why *l*, in particular, is doubled in all monosyllables when all (with few exceptions, and Mr. Webster has not corrected those exceptions) the other consonants are single as shown above; and for the same reason *l*, not having the shortening power as other consonants, as above stated, is doubled in the derivative words counselor, counselling, traveller, travelled, cavilling, &c. &c. although single in travel, &c. while the letters *t, r*, &c. are not doubled in the derivatives coveted, profited, differing, murmuring, &c. when unaccented, as the letter *l* is doubled.

In the orthography of the class of words that end in *mb*, Mr. Webster has introduced a number of "INNOVATIONS" and *inconsistencies*. Thus, he has spelled dumb, limb, and numb, with *b*; and crum without it! He has spelled dumb with *b*, and dumfound without it. He has spelled thumb and tlum with *b* and without it; and has given thum without *b* the preference; and he has also spelled thumring and thumstall without *b*, and in defining thum and its derivatives he has spelled it thum without *b* seven times; but in defining finger and forefinger he has spelled it thumb with *b* three times! In his text he has spelled benum, benumbing and benumbed without final *b*, but in defining the words numb and torpent, he has spelled benumb, benumbing, and benumbed, with *b*, contrary to his text!

Mr. Webster has spelled matrass, carcass, &c. with *ss* in the unaccented syllable, as Walker, Johnson, and others have spelled them; but he has spelled cutlas with single *s*, contrary to them and to *analogy* and *uniformity*! for if cutlas be spelled with single *s*, matrass, &c. should be, most unquestionably. Johnson, Walker, and others, spell porpise and tortoise with the termination *oise*, but Mr. Webster has made an "innovation" by spelling porpess (ess) to produce "uniformity" in his orthography, which "is a prime excellence in the rules of language."

Mr. Webster has spelled conscientious with *l* in the last syllable, but unconscientious with *c*, and in defining unconscientious, he has conscientious with *c*, contrary to his text! He has spelled analysed with *z*, but unanalysed with *s*, and in defining unanalysed he has spelled analysed with *s*, contrary to his text! He has spelled vizard with *z*, but unvisard with *s*! He has spelled poised with *s*, but unpoized with *z*, and in defining unpoized he has spelled poised with *z*, contrary to his text! He has spelled composite and decomposite with final *e*, and deposit and reposit without *e*! He has spelled imbittered with *i*, but unembittered with *e*, and in defining unembittered he has spelled embittered, contrary to his text! He has spelled imbosom with *i*, but disbosom with *e*! He has spelled inbrangle with *i*, but disbrangle with *e*! He has spelled intralld with *i*, but unenthalld with *e*! He has spelled inversely and adversely with *e* after *s*, but diversly without *e*! He has spelled ethereal with *e*, but in his "additions" at the close of the book, etherealize and etherealized with *i*! He has spelled referee with single *r*, but transferee with *rr*! He has spelled counselor with single *l*, but chancellor with *ll*! He has spelled entreat with *e*, but intreatful with *i*, and has defined it thus, "full of entreaty"! He has spelled analyze with *y*, but paralyze with *i*, and in defining palsy in his "additions" he has paralyze with *y*, contrary to his text! He has spelled inwrap with *i*, but enwrapment with *e*! He has spelled plumbtree without *b*, but hogplumbtree with it! He has spelled baize with final *e*, but maiz without it! He has spelled purslain with *ain*, but horsepurslane with *ane*! He has spelled soothe (verb) with final *e*, but smooth (verb) without it, and *oo* has the same sound in both words! He has spelled brier with *c*, but sweetbrier with *a*, and after the word he has [*sweet* and *briar*] in which he has spelled brier with *a*, contrary to his text! Again, in defining brier, he has spelled sweetbrier with *e*, contrary to his text! He has spelled gopeller and hospitaller with *ll*, but moddler and victualer, &c. with single *l*! He has spelled alledged with *d*, but alleageable and allegement without it! He has camlet without *b*, but gimblet with it, and in defining bore and wamble he has spelled gamlet without *b*, contrary to his text! He has spelled potato and wo without final *e*, but musketoe with it, and in defining batatas he has potatoe with *e*, and also in defining *ouch* and *fecl* he has spelled woe with *e*, contrary to his text! He has spelled garlic without *l*, but pil-garlick with it, and after the word he has [*pilled* and *garlick*] with *k*, contrary to his text! He has laureate with *e*, but poetlaureat without it! He has spelled enchanted with *e*, but uninchaned with *i* and *e* both! He has spelled furlow (*furlough*) and plow (*plough*) with *ow*, instead of *ough*, as other lexicographers have spelled them, but he has spelled slough, thorough, &c. with *ough*, as others have them!

Mr. Webster has, in his introduction, censured Johnson, Walker, Todd, Sheridan, Jones,

&c. for their inconsistencies in the orthography of many words in which he *now* professes to have produced uniformity; as *u* in *daub* and *w* in *bedawb*; judgement with *e*, but acknowledgment without it; proveable, moveable, &c. with *e*, but reproveable, immovable, &c. without it; traveller, counsellor, with *ll* instead of single *l*: yet Mr. Webster had all these "inconsistencies," for which he has so strongly censured other lexicographers, in both his former dictionaries, published in 1806 and 1817; and even the word *dispatch*, of which he has said so much in his introduction, he spelled in both his former dictionaries *despatch* with *e*, as Johnson, Walker, and others have spelled it!

I should not have considered it my duty to allude to the above facts, had Mr. Webster, instead of censuring Johnson, Walker, Jones, &c. for their inconsistencies in the orthography of the words above noted, merely observed, that Johnson, Walker, Todd, &c. and myself (Mr. Webster) have spelled these words in this *contradictory* manner in our dictionaries, which I have *now* endeavoured to reduce to uniformity! The *contradictory* manner in which he has spelled the words abridgment, acknowledgment, judgment, and lodgment in his former works, would seem to require the above admission on his part: for instance; in his Spelling-Book he spelled abridgement and judgement with *e* [acknowledgment and lodgment were not in his spelling lessons]; in his dictionary, published in 1806, he spelled abridgment and acknowledgment without *e*, but judgement and lodgment with it! in his dictionary, published in 1817, he spelled *all* of them with *e*, abridgement, acknowledgement, judgement, and lodgment! in this, the American Dictionary he has spelled *all* of them without *e*, abridgment, acknowledgment, judgment, and lodgment, while abridgement and judgement have remained the same, with *e*, in his Spelling-Book, during this counter-revolution in his dictionaries!

Again; there are many other "inconsistencies" in the English language which require correction as much as those which Mr. Webster has endeavoured to reduce to uniformity; as *benum* without *b*, but *numb* with it; *wreath* without final *e*, but *inwreath* with it; *imbitter* with *i*, but *disembitter* with *e*; *dryly*, *dryness*, *shyly*, and *shyness*, with *y*, but *slyly* and *sliness* with *i*; *conversable* with *a*, but *reversible* with *i*; *forbear* with *ea*, *despair* with *ai*, and *prepare* with *a*, when each termination is pronounced alike, *a long*; *precede*, *recede*, *secede*, &c. with the termination *ede*, and *exceed*, *proceed*, and *succeed*, with *eed*, &c. &c. in all of which he has the same "inconsistencies" and "preposterous anomalies" which are in other dictionaries.

I will now attempt to show wherein Mr. Webster's "American Dictionary" is *particularly* objectionable as a "STANDARD OF ORTHOGRAPHY."

It is presumed that every person will readily admit, that a dictionary should, if intended to be a "standard of orthography," possess the following qualities in an eminent degree.

1. "Certain rules should be adopted and pursued through the several classes of words, and their orthography should be reduced to uniformity."—2. No innovation in orthography should be made, unless by the introduction of that innovation an "anomaly" is corrected and uniformity produced.—3. The orthography of the primitive and derivative words should be uniform and consistent.—4. The *same* words should not be differently spelled, either in the text, or in the definitions of other words; and want of *decision* in this particular alone, should be a paramount objection to the adoption of any dictionary as a "STANDARD OF ORTHOGRAPHY!"

I have already shown, it is believed, that in the first, second, and third particulars, above alluded to, Mr. Webster has not, except in a very few instances, produced uniformity, either in the "certain rules which he has adopted and pursued through the several classes of words," or in the "innovations" which he has made; and, that he has, in the orthography of primitive and derivative words, more *contradictions* than Johnson, Walker, Jones, Todd, or Jameson! yet Mr. Webster has stated that "No two English writers agree on the subject of orthography; and what is worse, no lexicographer is *consistent* with himself!" when he has more "inconsistencies" than all of them!!! But the fourth, and most *important* and *prominent* particular, which should be manifested on the part of the lexicographer who writes a dictionary, designed as a "standard of orthography," is *decision* in giving the orthography of each word; and I will now endeavour to show that Mr. Webster has exhibited a greater *want of decision* in this important point than any of his predecessors. First,—he has spelled many words in two different ways without having given a preference, each of which he has defined *precisely* or nearly alike, and these words have been spelled but *one* way in his *former* dictionaries, and in the dictionaries of Johnson, Walker, &c.: Secondly—he has in using the words thus differently spelled in his text, in defining other words, spelled them sometimes with one orthography, and sometimes with the other: Thirdly—he has frequently spelled a word two ways, and has given a preference; but he has as often, in his definitions, used the orthography which he has *not* preferred as that which he *has* preferred: Fourthly—he has, in many instances, changed the orthography of a word, and inserted the former orthography, and has referred the reader to the *new* spelling; but he has changed the orthography of other words without having given the former orthography, or any reference to it: Fifthly—he has many words that are spelled two different ways in his text, which he has coupled, sometimes even without reference to their alphabetical arrangements, so that the reader can see the different spelling of the *same* word.

at *once*, which is a great convenience; but he has other words differently spelled which are *not* thus coupled, which is a great inconvenience: Sixthly—he has, in his text, coupled many words which he has spelled in two different ways, with one first in its alphabetical arrangement, and in another place the *other* word first, agreeably to the alphabetical arrangement of *that* word, in this manner, alternately giving each word thus coupled, a preference by placing it first!

First: he has spelled many words in two different ways, without having given a preference, each of which he has defined *precisely* or nearly alike, and these words have been spelled but *one way* in his *former* dictionaries, and in the dictionaries of Johnson, Walker, &c., as above stated. He has enlistment, the act of enlisting, and inlistment, the act of inlisting, but in reinlistment he has given *i* the preference! He has encase and incase, to inclose in a case! He has embolden and imbolden, to encourage! He has empeople and impeople, to form into a community! He has embody and imbody, re-embody and re-imbody, with *e* and *i* both, but unembodied with *e* only! He has apostrophe and apostrophy, with *e* and *y* both! He has greyhound and grayhound, a tall fleet dog, used in (kept for) the chase! He has encirclet and incirclet, with *e* and *i*! He has entwine and intwine, to twine, &c.! He has entwist and intwist, to twist, &c.! He has embower and imbower! He has embow and imbow, to arch, to vault! He has encrust and incrust, to cover with a crust! He has cyclopedia and cyclopede, with *ia* and *e*; and again, he has encyclopedia and encyclopedy, with *ia* and *y*! He has encumber, encumbered, encumbrance, and incumber, incumbered, incumbrance; but disencumber, disencumbered, disencumbrance, with *e* only; and incumbered and unincumbered, with *e* and *i* both! He has enforce, enforcement, with *e* only, but re-enforce, re-enforcement, re-inforce, re-inforcement, with *e* and *i* both! He has given the *three* words which end in *eed*, three *different* ways; thus, proceed and procede, with *eed* and *ede*, and *eed* placed first as the *preferable* spelling; succede and succeed, with *ede* and *eed*, and *ede* placed first; exceed one way, with *eed* only!! Again; he has spelled *all* the derivatives and compounds of these three words, and in their definitions, *eed*! He has catastrophe and catastrophe; epitome and epitomy; syncope and syncopy; synecdoche and synecdochy, with *e* and *y* both! He has sheath and sheathe (verb) with *final e* and without! &c. &c. &c.

Secondly: he has, in using the words thus differently spelled in his text, in defining other words, spelled them sometimes with one orthography, and sometimes with the other; thus, he has, in defining reinlist and reinlistment, spelled inlist with *i*, but in defining beat, engage, and enter, he has spelled it enlist, with *e*! He has, in defining impanate and incorporate, spelled embody with *e*, but in defining reimbody, he has spelled imbody with *i*! He has, in defining apostrophe and its derivatives, spelled apostrophe with *e* three times, and apostrophy with *y* three times! Again; in his explanation of "*case*," in his grammar, prefixed to the American Dictionary, he has spelled apostrophy with *y* twice! He has, in defining breathe and leash, spelled greyhound with *e*, but in defining course and stablestand, he has spelled it grayhound, with *a*! He has, in defining clog and load, spelled encumber with *e*, but in defining burden, he has spelled incumber with *i*! He has, in defining clog and load, spelled encumbrance with *e*, but in defining clear and clogging, he has spelled incumbrance with *i*! &c. &c. &c.

Thirdly: he has frequently spelled a word two ways, and has given a preference; but he has as often used the orthography in his definitions, which he has *not* preferred in his text, as that which he *has* preferred! Thus, he has spelled feather and fether with *a* and without *it*, and has given fether, without *a*, the preference, as "the most correct orthography;" and, in defining feather and its derivatives, he has spelled fether without *a* twenty-six times; in defining plume and its derivatives, seventeen times; in defining fledge, seven times; and in defining fowl, goose, hawk, pillow, last, quill, tick, and unfiedgcd, he has also spelled fether without *a*; but in defining bipennate, bird, avoset, bed, bolster, crest, crane, and crow, he has spelled feather with *a*! He has spelled leather and lether with *a* and without *it*, and has given lether, without *a*, the preference, as "the most correct orthography;" and in defining leather and its derivatives, he has spelled lether without *a* nine times; and, in defining last, leash, moccason, pocket-book, shoe, and thong, he has also spelled lether without *a*; but in defining air-jacket, alutation, awl, apron, ball, bind, bandoleers, buckskin, cord-wainer, coriaceous, and cushion, he has spelled leather with *a*! He has, in defining leather and quail-pipe, spelled lethern without *a*; but in defining bandoleers and hose, he has lethern with *a*! He has spelled villainy and villany with *i* in the second syllable, and without *it*, and has given villany, without *i*, the preference; and, in defining villain and its derivatives, and archvillany, he has spelled it villany, without *i*, six times; but in defining enormity, flagitiousness, exceed, outrageous, and outvillain, he has spelled villainy with *i*! He has spelled steadfast, steadfastness, steady, and stedfast, stedfastness, and stedly, with *a* and without *it*, and has, in defining steady, stedfast, and their derivatives, spelled stedfast without *a* four times, stedfastness without *a* twice, stedly without *a* nine times, and steddiness without *a* six times, and stedfastness without *a*, in defining immovability, stedfast without *a*, in defining immovable; but in defining firm, stable, and resolute, he has spelled steady with *a*; in defining firmness and fixedness, he has stedfastness with *a*; and in defining fixation, resolution, stability, and stableness, he has also spelled steadiness

with *a*! He has spelled sovereign and suveran, and has given suveran the preference, as "the true spelling;" and in defining suveran and its derivatives, he has spelled suveran with *u* seven times, and suveranty once; but in defining sovereign and its derivatives, he has spelled sovereign with *o*, and in defining empress he has sovereignty with *o*! He has spelled nuisance and nusance with *i* and without it, and in defining nuisance he has spelled nusance without *i*; but in defining abate and its derivatives, he has spelled nusance with *i* three times! &c. &c. &c.

Fourthly: he has, in many instances, changed the orthography of a word, and inserted the former orthography, and has referred the reader to the *new* spelling; but he has changed the orthography of other words without having given the former orthography, or any reference to it. Thus, he has "bridegroom [see bridegroom,]" which is the *new* spelling; he has "cloak [see cloke,]" which is the *new* spelling; "ensure [see insure,]" he has "endorse [see indorse,]" he has "cruise [see cruse,]" "chemist [see chimist,]" &c. &c. &c.; but he has changed the orthography of the words mosk, ribin, cutlas, skain, sherif, tarif, gimblet, porpess, &c. &c., without having given the *former* orthography, which is mosque, riband, cutlass, skein, sheriff, tariff, gimlet, porpoise, &c., or any reference to it in his text!

Fifthly: he has many words spelled two different ways in his text, which he has coupled, sometimes even without reference to their alphabetical arrangement, so that the reader can see the different spelling of the *same* word at once; but he has other words differently spelled, which are *not* thus coupled, which is a great inconvenience. Thus, he has, in the text, coupled crier and cryer, croop and croup, boose and bouse, tongue and tung, feather and fether, leather and lether, villain and villan, sluice and sluse, crout and kroust, polype and polypus, nuisance and nusance, steady and stedly, &c. &c.; but he has *not* coupled boosy and bousy, chemist and chimist, chemistry and chimistry, bridegroom and bridegoom, sovereign and suveran, gipsey and gypsey, &c. &c.

Sixthly: he has, in his text, coupled many words which he has spelled two different ways with one first in its alphabetical arrangement, and in another place the *other* word first, agreeably to the alphabetical arrangement of *that* word, in this manner alternately giving each word, thus coupled, a preference, by placing it first! Thus, he has croop and croup, croup and croop; boose and bouse, bouse and boose, &c. &c.

In addition to the preceding, Mr. Webster has spelled many words in *three* different ways, which have heretofore been spelled in *one* way only. Thus, he has height, highth, hight; raindeer, ramedeer, reindeer; paroquet, paroket, perroquet, &c. &c. Although Mr. Webster has spelled so many words differently, yet he has observed under the word cion, that "different modes of spelling the same word are very inconvenient." Still he has *five* times as much *variable* and *contradictory* spelling as *all* other lexicographers!!

Thus, I have, in six prominent particulars, endeavoured to show wherein Mr. Webster's dictionary is objectionable as a "Standard of orthography." In doing this, I have merely given a few general examples of each class, and have left it with the *critical* reader to examine more *particularly* as inclination and leisure shall dictate.

I will now take notice of some of the discrepancies in the orthography of the words in the text and definitions of Mr. Webster's Dictionary. I have already taken notice of some of the discrepancies in the orthography of Mr. Webster's definitions and text; but those were words which are *differently* spelled in the *text*, with or without preference being given. The discrepancies of which I shall now take notice are those in which the words are spelled, in the *definitions*, differently from the *text* of the American Dictionary. Many of these words are spelled, in the definitions, agreeably to the text of Johnson, Walker, Jameson, &c.; others agreeably to neither; and many of them are spelled agreeably to Webster's *Spelling-Book*, contrary to his *dictionary* and those of Johnson, Walker, &c. It is, unquestionably, of the greatest importance that the orthography of the words used in the definitions of a dictionary, should agree with that of the text, as those who use the dictionary will have this *erroneous* orthography continually before them, if disagreeing with the text, until they become familiar with it, and will often make use of this *incorrect* orthography in spelling.

That Mr. Webster himself considers it important that there should be an agreement in the orthography of the definitions and text, appears evident from the fact that he has, at the close of the American Dictionary, in his "Corrections" inserted a note in which he has shown that Johnson wrote *despatch* with *i*, instead of *e*, in his definitions, contrary to his *text*.— This note it seems should have been inserted in the introduction where he has spoken of *despatch*; and, it is thus, in his "Corrections," introduced. "Under *despatch*, in the introduction, add; Dr. Johnson himself wrote *despatch*. The word thus written occurs twice in his dictionary under *send*, and five times under *speed*, and this orthography has been continued to the present time. It has been transcribed into all the dictionaries made from Johnson's, at least into all which I have examined, even down to Chalmers and Jameson." Yet Mr. Webster "*himself*" not only spelled the word *despatch* with *e* in the text of his two *former* dictionaries, [see page 13] *precisely* as Johnson and Walker have spelled it, but he actually had the word *despatch* with *i* under the *same* words *send* and *speed*, contrary to his *own* text, in his dictionary published in 1806, and also under the words *expedience*, *expedite*, and *expeditiously* in the *same* dictionary! He likewise spelled *despatch* with *i*, contrary to his text, under the word *send*, in his dictionary published in 1817!

In this the American Dictionary, Mr. Webster has, under the word *betrust* and its derivatives, spelled *entrust* with *e*, instead of *i*, contrary to his text, six times, and once in his preface! Thus, we have the following singular coincidence: Johnson made use of *i* instead of *e* in *despatch*, contrary to his text, "twice under *send*, and five times under *speed*;" and Mr. Webster has made use of *e* instead of *i* in *intrust*, contrary to his text, six times under *betrust*, and once in his preface—two and five are seven—six and one are seven!!

Perhaps there never was among the acts of any author, a more *illiberal* and *ungenerous* act than that of Mr. Webster's inserting the preceding note in his Dictionary, relative to Dr. Johnson and the word *despatch*, when he had *himself* copied the *blunder* into his former dictionaries, under the *same* words!!

From the preceding note, it is evident that Mr. Webster *does* consider it of importance, that the orthography of the definitions and text should be alike, and I will, *therefore*, show that Mr. Webster is far from *uniformity* and *consistency*, in this important particular.

Many of these words are spelled in the definitions of the American dictionary as they have been for many years in Webster's spelling-book, contrary to the text of *all* Webster's dictionaries; and, also contrary to the text of Johnson, Walker, &c.

He has achievement, contrary to his text (achievement) *eighteen* times under the following words; fabulous, gest, glorious, hatchment, heroic, labor, merit, might, obelisk, panegyric, perform, portray, pride, productive, twice under renown, rich and scald: He has cholick, contrary to his text (colic) under bias: He has cobbler, contrary to his text (cobbler) *five* times under the words botcher, last, ride, and souter: He has holiday, contrary to his text (holy-day), *eight* times under the words calends, even, fair, ferial, three times under feriation, and highday: He has briar, contrary to his text (brier) under rose: He has faggot, contrary to his text (fagot) *five* times under the words bavin, dunnage, and kid: He has bason, contrary to his text (basin) *eight* times under the words font, goldfish, muller, pelvis, pool, rocksalt, reservoir, and rim: He has cyder, contrary to his text (cider) *five* times under the words bottle, brandy, brisk, distill, and perkin: He has chesnut, contrary to his text (chestnut) *ten* times under the words bay, beaver, beech, bur, earthnut, fieldfare, mastful, mate, and tannin: He has cyderkin, contrary to his text (ciderkin) under perkin and purr: He has cypher, contrary to his text (cipher) *six* times under the words binary, cryptography, fraction, key, monogram, and round: He has sheriff, contrary to his text (sherif) *fifty-three* times under the words accountable, advance, admeasurement, approver, array, brevc, calendar, candidate, cheriff, commit, conservator, constitute, coroner, county, custody, deputation, depute and its derivatives, discharge, distringas, elisor, empannel, escape, esquire, execution, exigent, extend, extent, fee, fierifacias, imprisonment, informing, inquest, jail, lawday, landgrave, liveryman, mainprize, marshal, nisiprius, outlaw, outrider, oyes, office, palsgrave, panel, peace-officer, and pipe: He has mizen, contrary to his text (mizzen) *eighteen* times under the words admiral, aftersails, bagpipe, bark, brail, bunkin, courses, dogger, driver, flag, frigate, gaff, galiot, crossjack, howker, ketch, and ship: He has plaintiff, contrary to his text (plaintif) *fifty-six* times under the words account, appellor, avoid, bail, blank, bar, capias, champerty, cognizance, cognizee, cognizor, competent, complainant, compurgation, cost, counsel, crossbill, crossexamine, day, decide, declare, declaration, default, defense, delay, demand, commandant, demur, elegit, enjoin, discontinuance, find, imparlance, injunction, lie, make, merge, nonability, nonproficient, nonsuit, object, objection, and party: He has cmbitter, contrary to his text (imbitter) *fourteen* times under the words disquietude, edge, empoison, envenom, exasperate, and impoison: He has hindrance, contrary to his text (hindrance) *even* times under the words arrest, bar, check, counteraction, cross, forbidding, and passport: He has licence, contrary to his text (license) *seven* times under the words curate, effrenation, fly, imparl, imparlance, limiter, and scurrilous: He has abridgement, contrary to his text (abridgment) under the word cote: He has spelled paroquet, paroket, and perröquet, three *different* ways in his text; and, under the word anaca, he has spelled it pardeckt, and under lory he has spelled it parroquet, both contrary to *all* three of the words in his text! He has diarrhæa and diarrhœa, both contrary to his text (diarrhea) under the words lax, looseness, cœliac and colliquate! He has carcase, contrary to his text (carcass) under the words anhima, corps, mortar, and quarter: He has liquorice, contrary to his text (licorice) under astragal and ginseng: He has asafetida, and assafetida, both contrary to his text (asafetida) under bag and gumresin! He has ribband and ribbon, both contrary to his text (ribin) under flare and pendent! He has sirrup and syrup, both contrary to his text (sirup) under the words capillaire, consistency, eclegm, hippocras, and lohock: He has cameleon and chameleon, both contrary to his text (chameleon) under knack: and lizard! He has ethereal, contrary to his text (ethereal) *five* times under the words heaven, quintessence, skim, same and region: He has sallad, contrary to his text (salad) under the words betradish and lenten: He has serjeant, contrary to his text (sergeant) under the words advocate, attorney, counsel, lawyer, and petit: He has merchandize, contrary to his text (merchandise) *eighteen* times under the words article, book-keeping, broker, buckram, cargo, chaffer, cocket, commodity, curator, custom, emporium, export, exporter, goods, gross, guard, innocency, and kiddier: He has entrust, contrary to his text (intrust) *fifty-one* times under the words account, address, administration, agency, unsver, bail, behight, cash-keeper, charge, commend, commission, commit, commitment, confide, coneredit, confident, confider, counsel, defaulter, delegate, demand, deposite, eleemosy-

ry, embezzle, employ, financier, guardian, intimate, lovetale, office, paymaster, peculate, speculation, peculator, privy-seal, regency, responsible, and sequestration; He has woe, contrary to his text (wo) *ten* times under the words deliver, epoch, eternize, feel, join, mockery, mortal, pineful, pomp, and respond: He has ensnare, contrary to his text (insnare) *twenty-six* times under the words benet, captious, captive, catch, deceit, deceive, and their derivatives, entoil, entrap, gudgeon, hamper, hook, illaquate, luck, mesh, noose, pit, and take: He has caravansera, contrary to his text (caravansary) under ammonia: He has enterprize, contrary to his text (enterprise) *eight* times under the words abandon, adventure and its derivatives, advisedly, chivisance, expedition, and over: He has tranquility, contrary to his text (tranquillity) *twelve* times under the words composedness, agitation, composure, disquiet and its derivatives, haleyon, and under quiet and its derivatives: He has decypher, contrary to his text (decipher) under the words blazoned and cipher: He has phrenzy, contrary to his text (phrensy) under phrenitis: He has bishoprick, contrary to his text (bishopric) under erection: He has hammock, contrary to his text (hammoc) under netting: He has courtezan, contrary to his text (courtesan) under penitent: He has highthen and highten, both contrary to his text (heighten) under the word irritate, twice under enhance, and twice under exaggerate! He has plough, contrary to his text (plow) under new: He has faulchion, contrary to his text (falchion) under bite and saber: He has intreat, contrary to his text (entreat) under the words appetite, deprecate, and obsecrate: He has vermillicon, contrary to his text (vermillion) under the words miniate and minious: He has chuse, contrary to his text (choose) twice under arbitration: He has guaranteed, contrary to his text (guaranted) under peace: He has cauldron, contrary to his text (cal-dron) under encliant and flaw: He has waggon, contrary to his text (wagon) under caisson and matross: He has woodhuck, contrary to his text (woodhuk) under marmot: He has hazle, contrary to his text (hazel) under catkin, cobnut, julus, nut, and rod: He has enquire, contrary to his text (inquire) under beseech, character, consulting, consulted, and nose: He has also enquiry, contrary to his text (inquiry) under arrive, examen, consult, and curious: He has maize, contrary to his text (maiz) under articulation, breadcorn, cop, and broomcorn: He has reverie, contrary to his text (revery) once under dump, and three times under disentrance: He has intreaty, contrary to his text (entreaty) under deprecation, flexible, and obsecration: He has gilliflower, contrary to his text (gillyflower) under carnation, caryphylloid, lavender, and damewort: He has spignet, contrary to his text (spinet) twice under manichord: He has spiggot, contrary to his text (spigot) under faucet: He has crumb, contrary to his text (crum) under particle: He has neighbour, contrary to his text (neighbor) under recess: He has flageolet, contrary to his text (flagelet) under recorder: He has tambour, contrary to his text (tambor) under morrice: He has pennyless, contrary to his text (penniless) under less: He has vert-brae, contrary to his text (verteber) under loin and neck: He has giroce, contrary to his text (girrock) under lacertus: He has critick, contrary to his text (critic) under persuade: He has anticke, contrary to his text (antic) under muramer: He has fibre, contrary to his text (fiber) under fibrolite and peristaltic: He has avoirdupoise, contrary to his text (avoirdupois) under bahar and deagram: He has centinel, contrary to his text (sentinel) under garret: He has pontiff, contrary to his text (pontif) under asiarch, lama, and papal: He has raccoon, contrary to his text (raccoon) under coat: He has burthen, contrary to his text (burden) *seven* times under barge, buss, cat, coaster, condition, and tunnage: He has balluster, contrary to his text (baluster) under pave, and twice under rail: He has ballustrade, contrary to his text (balustrade) under rail and sawtery: He has havoc, contrary to his text (havock) under fray: He has engraft, contrary to his text (ingraft) *five* times under applegraft, clefgraft, receive, and imp: He has pretence, contrary to his text (pretense) under belie, government, hypocrisy, and maroon: He has preterite, contrary to his text (preterit) under arose, ate, and conge: He has benefitted, contrary to his text (benefited) under advantaged: He has analyse, contrary to his text (analyze) under hedenbergite and reviewed: He has anglaise, contrary to his text (anglicize) under bivouac and reveille: He has gamut, contrary to his text (gammut) under scale and the letter F: He has enwrap, contrary to his text (inwrap) *six* times under circumplication, intrigue, infold, roll, and whipped: He has sadler, contrary to his text (saddler) under the words artificer and awl: He has partizan, contrary to his text (partisan) *four* times under contention and jacobite! He has cimitar, contrary to his text (cimiter) under saber: He has pedlar, contrary to his text (pedler) *four* times under lawker, piepoudre and huckster: He has gypsey, contrary to his text (gipsey) *four* times under bind, cymbal, deity, and dent: He has halbert, contrary to his text (halberd) *three* times under fieldstuff, glair, and sergeant: He has tou, contrary to his text (nun) *five* times under caravel, freight, and prisage: He has sulkey, contrary to his text (sulky) under carriage: He has casque, contrary to his text (cask) under harness and armor: He has battoon and baton in the text, but under the word scarp he has battoon, contrary to both of them! He has superintendance, contrary to his text (superintendence) under charecellor, consignee, and senceschal: He has taffety, contrary to his text (taffeta) under aridas and fair: He has embosom, contrary to his text (imbosom) under imposing and isle: He has enpanel, contrary to his text (impanel) *three* times under petit and jury: He has tipler, contrary to his text (tippler) under drinker

and drinkinghouse: He has also tipping, contrary to his text (tippling) under alehouse; He has tattling, contrary to his text (tattling) under futile and garrulity: He has taller, contrary to his text (tattler) under blow: He has turnip, contrary to his text (turnep) under rape: He has stupify, contrary to his text (stupely) under doze, drunk, dull, and fox: He has frolic, contrary to his text (frolick) under ape and curvet: He has slyly, contrary to his text (slyly) under closely, peep, and subtly: He has clue, contrary to his text (clew) under goosewing: He has dependant, contrary to his text (dependent) *four* times under hangeron, retainer, and satellite: He has headache, contrary to his text (headach) *five* times under complain, for, and cephalic: He has saviour, contrary to his text (savior) under scene: He has fulness, contrary to his text (fullness) under blissfulness, branchiness, buffel, and complement: He has dulness, contrary to his text (dulness) under amblyopy and constitutional: He has respite, contrary to his text (respit) under act and breath: He has unskilful, contrary to his text (unskilful) under artless and bad: He has unskilfully, contrary to his text (unskilfully) *five* times under badly, botch, botched, ignorant, and ignorantly! He has musrol, under bit, and mussroll under martingal, both contrary to his text (musrole)! He has parsnip, contrary to his text (parsnep) under caraway: He has furze, contrary to his text (furz) under crake and kid: He has fulfil, contrary to his text (fulfill) *eleven* times—once under each of the words accomplish, complete, compliment, defaulting, effectuate, engagement, and *four* times under comply! He has traveller, contrary to his text (traveler) under caravan: He has worshipping, contrary to his text (worshipping) under fornication: He has worshipper, contrary to his text (worshiper) under gentile: He has whiskey, contrary to his text (whisky) under spirit: He has wilfulness, contrary to his text (willfulness) under farna: He has skillfulness, contrary to his text (skillfulness) under feattess: He has worshipped, contrary to his text (worshipped) *five* times under abracadabra, achor, adored, feteisma, and profess: He has wilfully, contrary to his text (willfully) under contumacious and pervariate: He has duellist, contrary to his text (duelist) under brave:ry and combatant: He has revelling, contrary to his text (reveling) *four* times—once under carouse, and three times under bacchanalian! He has dialling, contrary to his text (dialing) *four* times—once under each of the words declinator and horologe, and twice under gnomonics! He has willful, contrary to his text (willful) *three* times under barratry, contunacy, and guilt: He has thresh, contrary to his text (thrash) *four* times under beat, grant, pile, and stover: He has travelling, contrary to his text (traveling) *six* times under circulatoricus, coach, fancy, far, forge, gest: He has fulfilment, contrary to his text (fulfillment) *four* times under breach, break, compliment, and expletion: He has skilfully, contrary to his text (skillfully) *five* times under artfully, defly, dextrously, discerningly, and fencing: He has skilful, contrary to his text (skillful) *twenty-seven* times—once under each of the words adroit, adroitly, agriculturist, artist, connoisseur, cope, dancer, defly, distance, exercised, experienced, expert, expertly, express, feat, fierceness, find, manager, please, and twice under each of the words clever, con, cunning, and dextrous! &c. &c.

When I commenced the exposition of the *discrepancies* in the orthography of the definitions and text in the American Dictionary, I intended to show *all* which I had discovered; but they are so numerous that the limits of this review will not permit me to pursue the exposition farther. I have already shown *between seven and eight hundred* discrepancies of this kind, and have noted about *five hundred* others. Enough has been given, it is believed, however, to convince the reader of the evident want of *uniformity and consistency* in the orthography of the definitions and text. The candid reader can readily judge whether it is justifiable on the part of Mr. Webster to *censure or condemn* Johnson's discrepancies in his definitions and text, when he has more than *twelve hundred* in his *own* dictionary, some of which are evidently *copied* from Johnson's dictionary, for they appear under the *same* words in *both* dictionaries! [See pages 13, 15, 16, and 17.] Having thus pointed out some of the most prominent *defects, inconsistencies, and contradictions* in the American Dictionary, which are much *more numerous* than in any other dictionary, I will now show, that the "*innovations and anomalies*" introduced by Mr. Webster in his several books, have done *more* to introduce irregularity in orthography, than *all* of the other works published in this country and in England within fifty years, even if we take his American Dictionary for the "STANDARD." I will also show that nearly all of the *errors* in spelling which now appear on almost every page of the best written books and periodical publications, and in nearly every column of our newspapers, have been introduced and kept in use through the medium of his Spelling-Book and former dictionaries, the orthography of which is now *rejected* by him in his American Dictionary!

First: he spelled a great many words in the spelling lessons of his Spelling-Book, contrary to the *text* of all his dictionaries, and *that* of Johnson and Walker; and, this *contradictory* orthography has been continued in his Spelling-Book and dictionary more than twenty years!!

Thus, *enche*, achievement, boult, bass, (*a long*), biggen, chace, calimanco, chalibcate, cholic, clench, cobler, doat, epaulette, enthal, etherial, faggot, frolic, fellow, grey, goslin, hindrance, hadoe, impale, jocky, laste, laquey, negociate, noggen, phrenzy, paroxism, rince, sadler, sahad, staunch, streight, seignor, sloar, taller, thresh, &c. &c., instead of ankle, achievement, bolt, base, biggin, chase, calimanco, chalybeate, colic, clinch, cobbler, dote,



epaulet, inthral, ethereal, fagot, frolick, felon, gray, gosling, hinderance, halloo, empale, jockey, last, lackey, negotina, noggin, phrensy, paroxysm, rinse, saddle, salad, stanch, straight, seignior, shore, tattler, thrash, &c. &c.

The first and *incorrect* spelling of these words above noted, will not only be found in our best publications and newspapers of the present day, but so great has been the influence of the *incorrect* orthography of these words, that not less than ten or fifteen *authors* of Spelling-Books, compiled since Webster's, in this country, have copied most of these *errors* from Mr. Webster's Spelling-Book! and even Mr. Webster "*himself*" has spelled nearly all of these words in this *erroneous* manner in the definitions of the American Dictionary!! [See pages 16, 17, and 18, of this Review.]

Secondly: he has spelled many words in his dictionary published in 1806, contrary to his Spelling-Book, and also contrary to his dictionary published in 1817: thus, abridgment, buccanier, callico, doctrin, determin, enterprize, examiu, havoek, medicin, opposit, perquisit, requisit, &c. &c.

Thirdly: he has spelled many words in his dictionary published in 1817, contrary to his Spelling-Book, and also contrary to his dictionary published in 1806: thus, aidecamp, bucar near, enrollment, pnumatic, sepulchre, tennon, woolen, &c. &c.

Fourthly: in his dictionary published in 1817, he changed the orthography of many words, which, in the dictionary of 1806, were contrary to his Spelling-Book, and conformed them to the orthography of his Spelling-Book, in accordance with the dictionaries of Johnson and Walker: thus, apposite, blameable, calico, determine, doctrine, examine, medicine, op-posite, perquisite, requisite, &c. &c.

Fifthly: he spelled many words in both his former dictionaries *contrary* to his Spelling-Book, which he has *now* spelled, in the American Dictionary, *agreeably* to his former Spelling-Book, and in accordance with the orthography of Johnson and Walker! thus, apostrophe, avoirdupois, bombasin, catastrophe, imagine, libertine, mackerel, quadrille, quarantine, radish, &c. &c.

Sixthly: he has now, in the American Dictionary, spelled many words agreeably to Johnson and Walker, but which were spelled differently from them in both his former dictionaries and Spelling-Book, whereby an orthography has for many years been taught through the medium of those books, which he now acknowledges to have been *erroneous*, by adopting the orthography of Johnson and Walker in these words: thus, bucanier, diphthong, guaranty, (verb,) merchandise, potato, rallery, triphthong, &c. &c.

Seventhly: he has introduced many "innovations" in the American Dictionary, which he has *not* "reduced to uniformity," and has, therefore, *increased*, rather than *diminished* the "anomalies" in our language. [See pages 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11; see also pages, 47, 48, 49, &c.]

Thus I have endeavoured to examine the American Dictionary fairly and candidly, and to compare it with the dictionaries of Johnson, Walker, Jameson, Todd, and others, and I regret the conclusion, that it is more *erroneous*, less *uniform* and *consistent*, than any one of them, and, if adopted as "A STANDARD," must lay the foundation of more numerous *contradictions* and "*anomalies*" than at present exist in the language. And here I could wish that I did not feel myself bound to animadvert upon what I deem illiberality on the part of the author of the American Dictionary towards former lexicographers, most of whom are now "beyond the reach, and out of hearing of his complaints," and, therefore, unable to answer him. If the author of the American Dictionary, who has enjoyed the advantages of their publications, has more *contradictions*, *inconsistencies*, and *anomalies*, than they have, and more than *twelve hundred* discrepancies in his text and definitions, surely charity should have induced him to throw a marble over half of that number in the earlier works of Johnson, Walker, and others. If he can claim to be justified in violating his *own rules and principles* in the great number of instances shown in this review, surely other lexicographers may claim commiseration for minor "*anomalies*" and less important "*contradictions*." If the real object of the author of the American Dictionary was "to purify the language from palpable errors, and reduce the number of its anomalies; to rescue it from the mischievous influence of sciolists, and that dabbling spirit of innovation which is perpetually disturbing its settled usages;" it is difficult to conceive upon what principles he can justify the number of *INNOVATIONS, CONTRADICTIONS, and ANOMALIES*, with which his work abounds.

# REVIEW

OF

## WEBSTER'S OCTAVO DICTIONARY.

[The copy, quoted in this Review, bears date 1831.]

SUBSEQUENT to the publication of the "Quarto American Dictionary," Mr. Webster informed the publick (through the medium of the New York Evening Post, May 28, 1829,) that an abridgment of this quarto, in an octavo form, would soon be published, which would "comprise all the words in the quarto, with some additions, and with the chief etymologies and full definitions." From this advertisement, we might reasonably infer that the *orthography* in the quarto and in the octavo, *agree* in the *text* if not in the *definitions*. I have compared all the *contradictions, inconsistencies, and anomalies*, which I have pointed out as contained in the quarto, with the octavo abridgment; and I will now show the result of that comparison. This exposition, it is presumed, will be considered proper and fair; for, although it is stated in the preface to the octavo abridgment, that "as the author of the original work has intrusted the superintendence of the Abridgment to another person, he is not to be considered as responsible for any of the modifications already allud-d to. The quarto edition will, of course, be considered as presenting his exact views of the proper arrangement and exhibition of words in respect to their orthography and pronunciation;" yet it is believed that he (Mr. Webster) *is and should be responsible* for the correctness or incorrectness of the orthography in the octavo, inasmuch as it is titled with *his name*, and *not Worcester's*, and is given to the publick under his authority only, the name of Mr. Worcester not appearing on the titlepage, or at the end of the preface. I shall, therefore, consider the octavo *Webster's*, and, with this opinion, shall proceed to point out the *variations* in orthography from the quarto, made in the octavo—that a part of the orthography objected to in the preceding review has been changed in the text of the octavo, agreeably to the orthography of Johnson and Walker—that nearly all the *contradictions and inconsistencies* in the orthography of the text still *remain* in the octavo; and I will also show in what manner and wherein many of the discrepancies in the text and definitions of the quarto, "*are corrected*" in the octavo, viz. by changing the orthography in the *text* of the octavo, and making it agreeable to the orthography of Walker! The other discrepancies, with few exceptions, *remain* as in the quarto. The *inconsistencies and contradictions* in the orthography of the class of words which end in *ck*, pointed out on pages 7 and 8, remain the same in the octavo, except the following which are *contradictory*: thus,

Quarto.	Octavo.	Quarto.	Octavo.
Almanack,	Almanac,	Hattock,	Hattoe,
Hemlock,	Hemloc,	Hillock,	Hilloe,
Mattock,	Mattoe,	Almanack-maker.	Almanac-maker.

The following *inconsistency* in the quarto, pointed out on page 8, is retained in the octavo. He has spelled *minic*, when a noun, without *k*, and with it when a verb; yet, he has made no such distinction in the words *frollick* and *traffick*, having spelled them with *k* in both cases.

The class of words which usually end in *re*, Mr. Webster spelled in the quarto with *er*, as stated on page 9; thus *accouter, center, manuever*, &c. and their derivatives; and these words were thus spelled in the definitions in the quarto: but we find these words and their derivatives *changed* in the octavo agreeably to Walker, and also in the definitions, although Mr. Webster has strongly *condemned* this termination *re*, in the introduction to the quarto! Mr. Webster remarks, "in the present instance, want of uniformity is not the only evil.—The present orthography has introduced an awkward mode of writing the derivatives, for example, *centred, sceptred, sepulchred*." Yet, we find these words and their derivatives spelled *re* in the octavo in the *text and definitions*, agreeably to Walker and Johnson, *contrary* to the principle above quoted which is contained in the quarto! Thus they appear in the two dictionaries:

Quarto.	Octavo.	Quarto.	Octavo.
Accouter,	Accouter,	Center,	Center,
Accoutering,	Accoutering,	Centered,	Centered,
Accoutered,	Accoutered,	Concenter,	Concentre,
Accouterments,	Accouterments,	Concentering,	Concentring,
Amphitheater,	Amphitheatre,		
	Amphitheater,		

Quarto.	Octavo.	Quarto.	Octavo.
Concentered,	Concenterd,	Sceptred,	Sceptred,
Fiber,	Fibre, }	Sepulcher, (n. and v.)	Sepulchre, (n.) }
	Fiber, }		Sepulcher, }
Luster,	Lustre, }		Sepulchre, (v.) }
	Luster, }	Sepulchering,	Sepulchring,
Maneuver, (n. and v.)	Manœuvre, (n.) }	Sepulchered,	Sepulchred,
	Maneuver, }	Specter,	Spectre, }
	Manœuvre, (v.) }		Specter, }
Maneuvering,	Manœuvring,	Verteber,	Vertebre, }
Maneuvered,	Manœuvred,		Verteber, }
Meter,	Metre, }	Ombre, }	Ombre, }
	Meter, }	Ombre, }	Ombre, }
Miter, (n. and v.)	Mitre, }	Peter, }	Petre, }
	Miter, }	Petre, }	Peter, }
	Mitre, (n.) }	Saber, }	Sabre, }
	Mitre, (v.) }	Sabre, }	Saber, }
Mitered,	Mitred,	Saber, (v.)	Sabre, (v.)
Niter,	Nitre, }	Saltpetre, }	Saltpetre, }
	Niter, }	Saltpetre, }	Saltpetre, }
Ocher,	Ochre, }	Theater, }	Theatre, }
	Ocher, }	Theatre, }	Theater, }
Ocherous,	Ochreous,	Massacer, }	Massacre, }
Scepter,	Sceptre, }	Massacre, }	Massacer, }
	Scepter, }		Massacre, n.

Thus we see that in the octavo the termination *re* is preferred in all cases in the class of words above given, except in reconnoiter, reconnoitering, and reconnoitered which he has spelled *er*, contrary to all of the others in the text of the octavo!; and, that *er* is preferred in all cases in the quarto! and the *re* is given in all cases in the definitions in the octavo, but *er* in the quarto, as *center, luster, &c. centre, lustre, &c.* so that there are hundreds of contradictions in the orthography of this class of words in the definitions of the quarto and octavo! This class of words forms one of the most prominent distinctions between the orthography of Mr. Walker and Webster, and it is one for which Mr. Webster and the friends of the quarto claim as much as for that of any other pretended improvement in the orthography of the American Dictionary; and, Mr. Webster has condemned the orthography of the termination *re* (both in the quarto and in his dictionary published in 1805) more strongly than that of any other class of words in which he disagrees with Johnson and Walker! The contradictions between the quarto and octavo in this class of words alone, (in the text and definitions,) amount to more than all the contradictions contained in the whole of Johnson's Dictionary!

The class of words which usually end in *ff*, Mr. Webster, in the quarto, spelled generally with single *f*, in the dissyllables and trisyllables, either in his text or in the "corrections" at the close of his dictionary; and, he gave the single *f* the preference; but, in the octavo he has spelled these words differently and has preferred the *ff*, both in the text and definitions! Thus, the discrepancies in the orthography of the text and definitions in this class of words contained in the quarto, pointed out on page 10, "are corrected in the octavo." The words of this class are changed in the text agreeably to Walker, consequently these words agree with the definitions in the octavo! These words are spelled in the manner following, in the octavo and quarto: thus—

Quarto.	Octavo.	Quarto.	Octavo.
Bailiff (text)	Bailiff }	Sherif	Sheriff }
Bailiff (CORRECTIONS)	Bailiff }		Sherif }
Caitiff (text)	Caitiff }	Deputysheriff	Deputysheriff }
Caitif (cor.)	Caitif }		Deputysheriff }
Dandruff (text)	Dandruff }	Boundbailiff	Boundbailiff }
Dandruf (cor.)	Dandruff }	Bumbailiff	Bumbailiff }
Mastiff (text)	Mastiff }	Undersheriff	Undersheriff }
Mastif (cor.)	Mastif }	Distaff	Distaff }
Plaintiff	Plaintiff }	Hippogriff	Hippogriff }
	Plaintiff }	Midriff	Midriff }
Pontif	Pontiff }	Cliff (text)	Cliff }
	Pontif }	Clif (cor.)	Cliff }
Archpontiff	Archpontiff }	Distaffthistle	Distaffthistle }
Restif (n.)	Restiff (n.) }	Tariff (n. & v.)	Tariff (n.) }
Restifness	Restiffness }		Tariff (v.) }
	Restiff }	Sheriffalty	Sheriffalty }
Restif (a.)	Restiff (a.) }		

<i>Quarto.</i>	<i>Octavo.</i>	<i>Quarto.</i>	<i>Octavo.</i>
Snerifdom	Sherifdom	Sheritwick	Sheriffwick
Sherifship	Sherifship	Undersherifry	Undersheriffry.

From an examination of the orthography of the preceding class of words, we shall discover that the termination *ff* is preferred in every instance in the octavo, both in the *text* and *definitions*; and, that their orthography is *contradictory* in the quarto, although *single f* is preferred in that dictionary! [See page 10.]

The *contradictory* manner in which the words that end with *ance*, *anse*, and *ense*, in the quarto, pointed out on page 10, remains the *same* in the octavo, except *entrance*.

In the orthography of the words which end with *ch* or *che*, pointed out as *contradictory* in the quarto, on page 10, a number of variations has been made in the octavo; thus,

<i>Quarto.</i>	<i>Octavo.</i>	<i>Quarto.</i>	<i>Octavo.</i>
Ache }	Ache }	Unaking	Unaching
Ake }	Ake }	Boneache	Boneache
Aching }	Aching }	Headach	Headache
Aking }	Aking }	Heartach	Heartache

In defining *ake*, he has *toothake* with *k*, contrary to his text, *toothache*, as in the quarto! The *contradictions* and *inconsistencies* in the orthography of the class of words which end in *l* or *ll*, pointed out on page 11, *remain* the same in the octavo in the *text*; but, a few corrections have been made in the definitions, under the words *baggage*, *abetting*, *accomplishment*, *bilk*, *find-fault*, *drivcl*, and *abracadabra*. Nearly all of the other *contradictions* pointed out on page 12, *remain* in the octavo, as *vizard* with *z*, *unvisard* with *s*, &c.

The *innovations* and *inconsistencies* pointed out on page 12, *remain* in the octavo, except the following; thus—

<i>Quarto.</i>	<i>Octavo.</i>	<i>Quarto.</i>	<i>Octavo.</i>
Etherialize }	Etherealize }	Allegement	Allodgement
Etherialized }	Etherealized }	Thumring	Thumbring
Allegeable	Alledgeable	Thumstail	Thumbstail

He has *gimblet* with *b* in the definition of the word *bore*, in the octavo.

It will be seen by reference to page 13, that I pointed out several rules and principles which a "Standard of Orthography" should possess in an eminent degree; and on that page particularly specified wherein the quarto is objectionable, as the *same* words are differently spelled in the text and in the definitions, and that there is want of *decision* in this particular which is a paramount objection to the adoption of any dictionary as a "STANDARD OF ORTHOGRAPHY."

The objections preferred against the orthography of the quarto are thus given on page 13: First—he has spelled many words in two different ways without having given a preference, each of which he has defined *precisely* or nearly alike, and these words have been spelled but *one* way in his former dictionaries, and in the dictionaries of Johnson, Walker, &c.: Secondly—he has, in using the words thus differently spelled in his text, in defining other words, spelled them sometimes with one orthography, and sometimes with the other: Thirdly—he has frequently spelled a word two different ways, and has given a preference; but he has as often in his definitions, used the orthography which he has *not* preferred as that which he *has* preferred: Fourthly—he has, in many instances, changed the orthography of a word, and inserted the former orthography, and has referred the reader to the *new* spelling; but he has changed the orthography of other words without having given the former orthography, or any reference to it: Fifthly—he has many words that are spelled two different ways in his text, which he has coupled, sometimes even without reference to their alphabetical arrangements, so that the reader can see the different spelling of the *same* word at once; but he has other words differently spelled which are *not* thus coupled, which is a great inconvenience: Sixthly—he has, in his text, coupled many words which he has spelled in two different ways with one first in its alphabetical arrangement, and in another place the *other* word first, agreeably to the alphabetical arrangement of *that* word, in this manner, alternately giving each word, thus coupled, a preference by placing it first!

As examples have been given under each of the preceding classes on pages 14 and 15, the reader is referred to them on those pages.

All of the *defects* pointed out on page 14, contained in the quarto, are generally the *same* in the octavo. The *defects* shown on page 15, contained in the quarto, are generally the *same* in the octavo. In defining the words *feather*, *leather*, *steady*, &c. he has *not* used these words without *a*, as in the quarto! The same may be said of the word *sovereign*, which is not spelled *suveran* in the definitions of the octavo, as in the quarto! He has *not* coupled the words *chemist* and *chmist*, *chemistry* and *chimistry*, &c. in the quarto, but has in the octavo, the same with regard to *sovereign* and *suveran*! In the quarto he has spelled *chimistry* with *i* in the first syllable, and has given this orthography the preference; and, he has also a note in the quarto in which he shows that this word *should* be spelled with *i*,

and he has thus spelled the word chemistry and its derivatives *fifteen* times in the definitions of the same words; but in the octavo he has spelled chemistry and its derivatives with *e*, and has given the words the full definitions after this orthography; and, he has also spelled the word chemistry and its derivatives with *e* in the definitions in the octavo, *contrary* to the quarto in *all* cases! Thus the words appear in the quarto and in the octavo:

Quarto.		Octavo.			
Chemical	}	Chemical			
Chemically		}	Chemically		
Chemist			}	Chemist	
Chemistry				}	Chemistry
<i>Full definitions.</i>					}
	Chemistry				
	Chemical				
	Chemical				
(see <i>chemical</i> )		Chemical			

Quarto.		Octavo.			
Chemically	}	Chimically			
(see <i>chimically</i> )		}	Chimically		
Chemist			}	Chimist	
(see <i>chimist</i> )				}	Chimist
<i>See CHEMISTRY.</i>					}
	Chimistry				

Quarto.
Alchemic
Alchemical
Alchemically
Alchemist
Alchemista
Alchemicalist
Alchimy

Octavo.
Alchemic
Alchemical
Alchemically
Alchemist
Alchemistic
Alchemicalist
Alchimy

From an examination of the preceding list, we shall perceive that he has given *i* the preference both in the *text* and *definitions* of the quarto; and, that he has given *e* the preference in this class of words in the *text* and *definitions* of the octavo in *all* cases! In the first edition of the octavo, (1829) he spelled alchimy and its derivatives with *i*, but in this edition, (1831) he has changed them to *e*, to agree with chemistry! Was this done by Mr. Webster's consent? If so, why has he alchimy and its derivatives with *i* in the duodecimo dictionary, bearing the same date, 1831?

He has spelled *plow* and its derivatives with *w* in the quarto, but *plough* and its derivatives with *ough* in the octavo: thus—

Quarto.		Octavo.		
<i>Plow</i> (n. & v.)	}	Plough } n.		
		}	Plow } v.	
Plow-arms			}	Plough-arms
Plow-bote				}
Plow-boy	}			
Plowed		}		
Plower			}	

Quarto.		Octavo.		
Plowing (ppr.)	}	Ploughing (ppr.)		
Plowing (n.)		}	Ploughing (n.)	
Plow-land			}	Plough-land
Plow-man				}
Plow-munday	}			
Plow-share		}		
Unplowed			}	
Drillplow				}

In this class of words there are the most glaring *contradictions* that can possibly exist in a dictionary; *ow* is preferred in *all* cases in the text of the quarto, and *ough* in *all* cases in the text of the octavo! And yet we are told by Mr. Webster that "one very important object of this series of books, is to reduce to *uniformity*, the orthography of a great number of words which are differently written by different authors." In the quarto, *plow* is spelled with *ow* in the definitions; but in the octavo it is sometimes with *ow* and sometimes with *ough*; as under *plough* and its derivatives it is spelled with *ough*, but under *break* it is spelled with *ow*! He has "unplowed, not *plowed*" in the quarto, and "unploughed, not *ploughed*" in the octavo! although under *break* it is *unplowed* with *ow*!

He has, in the quarto, spelled *furrow* with *ow*, and has given the following note in support of his *new* orthography: "the common orthography *furrough* is corrupt, as the last syllable exhibits false radical consonants. The true orthography is *furrow*;" and he has spelled it *furrow* in the definitions in the quarto; but in the octavo he has spelled it *both* ways, and has given *ough* the preference both in the text and definitions! Thus—

Quarto.		Octavo.	
<i>Furrow</i> (n.) <i>leave of absence.</i>	}	Furrough } n. <i>leave of absence.</i>	
<i>Furrow</i> (v.) <i>to furnish with a furrow.</i>		}	Furrow } v. <i>to furnish with a furrow.</i>
			Furrough } v. <i>to furnish with a furrow.</i>
			Furrow } v. <i>to furnish with a furrow.</i>

In the quarto he has spelled *bridegroom* without *r*, in the last syllable, and has said of the former orthography, *bridegroom*, "such a gross corruption or blunder ought not to remain a reproach to philology;" yet in the octavo the word is changed back to the orthography of Walker and Johnson, *contrary* to the quarto and the preceding note, so that *bridegroom*, without *r* in the last syllable, does not appear in the *text* or *definitions* of the octavo at all!

He has, in the quarto, spelled *ribin* with single *b*, and *in*; but in the octavo he has spelled it *three* ways! and he has given *ribbon* the preference, both in the *text* and in the *definitions* of the octavo! Thus, in defining *ribin* and its derivatives, and in defining the word millinery, he has, in the quarto, spelled it in *all* cases *ribin*, but in the octavo *ribbon* in the *same* situation! The words appear in the following manner, in the two dictionaries:

Quarto.		Octavo.
Ribin ( <i>n.</i> )		Riband, (See RIBBON.)
		Ribbon, } <i>n.</i>
		Ribin, } <i>n.</i>
Ribin, ( <i>v. to adorn with ribins!</i> )		Ribbon, ( <i>v. to adorn with ribbons!</i> )

In the quarto he has spelled *drouth* with *th* as the preferable orthography, and has given the following note: "This is usually written *drought*, after the Belgic dialect; but improperly;" but in the octavo *drought* is placed first as the preferable orthography in that dictionary! thus—

Quarto.	Octavo.		Quarto.	Octavo.
Drouth,	Drought, } Drouth } Drouth }		Drouthiness,	Droughtiness, } Drouthiness, } Drouthy, } Drouthy. }
			Drouthy,	

He has in the quarto, spelled *Melasses* with *e* in the first syllable; and has said "MOLASSES, an incorrect orthography of *melasses*;" but in the octavo he has given *molasses* the preference by placing it first in the text, and has *not* given *melasses* in its place agreeable to alphabetical arrangement!

In the quarto, he has spelled *porpess* with *ess* in the last syllable, and has not given any reference to the former orthography *porpoise*; but in the octavo he has spelled it *three* ways *porpoise*, *porpus*, *porpess*, *oise*, *us*, and *ess*, and has given *porpoise* the preference by placing it first, and *porpess*, the orthography of the quarto, last!!! And yet he says on page 13 of his pamphlet, recently published; "*Porpoise* is a mere blunder!" In the quarto, he has spelled *nightmar* without final *e*, but in the octavo he has spelled it *nightmare* and *nightmar*, with *e* and without it, and has given with *e* the preference; and, in the quarto, he has also in defining incubus spelled *nightmar* without *e*, but in the octavo with it!

He has, in the quarto, spelled *hagard*, when an adjective and noun with one *g*, and *hagardly* with one *g* also, and in defining *hagardly* he has *hagard* with one *g*; but, in the octavo, he has spelled *haggard*, noun and adjective, and *haggardly*, with *gg*; and, also in defining *haggardly*, he has spelled *haggard* with *gg*!

Nearly all the *discrepances* in the *text* and *definitions* of the quarto, pointed out on pages 16, 17 and 18, remain the same in the octavo. Perhaps *one hundred* of the *eight hundred* "are corrected" in the octavo, mostly, however, by changing the orthography in the *text* of the octavo, and making it agreeable to the orthography of Walker and Johnson!

The limits of this review will not permit me to pursue the exposition of the *contradictions* in orthography between Webster's quarto and octavo dictionaries. The *critical* reader who wishes to know more of the "uniformity" of Mr. Webster's works, can pursue the subject, and examine more *fully* and  *minutely*. I think, however, that enough has been shown, to convince every *impartial* scholar of the *impropriety*, *injustice*, and *absurdity* of his condemnation of all *English* Dictionaries for want of "uniformity," when there are not in existence two *English* or *American* Dictionaries which *disagree* in orthography as much as Webster's quarto and octavo dictionaries disagree! And yet Mr. Webster has stated on page 1 of his pamphlet, published during the past year, that "one very important object of this series of books, (quarto, octavo, school dictionary, and Elementary Spelling Book,) is to reduce to *uniformity* the orthography of a great number of words which are *differently* written by *different* authors!"

With regard to the justness of these remarks by Mr. Webster, the candid publick must decide, after having read attentively and critically the preceding and following pages of this review.

## REVIEW

OF

# WEBSTER'S DUODECIMO DICTIONARY

[The copy, quoted in this Review, bears date 1831.]

A FEW months after the publication of the octavo dictionary, Mr. Webster published "A Dictionary of the English Language: abridged from the American Dictionary, for the use of Primary Schools and the Counting-House."

In the preface to this (duodecimo) dictionary, page 2, in speaking of the orthography of the quarto and octavo dictionaries, he has stated, that "some errors in orthography escaped observation;" and farther remarks, "But the number of these I am not able to ascertain; as it is not probable that I shall ever again read the whole of the octavo or quarto edition. My intense and long continued labors render repose essential to my health and comfort, during the short period of life which remains." [And yet, Mr. Webster, after this appeal to the *sympathies* of the community, relative to the errors which had been discovered in his works, instead of seeking "*repose*," has travelled almost without cessation, making speeches in the different cities and large villages, *puffing* his new system of spelling, and, at the same time, *condemning* Johnson, Walker, and others; and has used every effort to make "*proselytes*," although he has stated in his pamphlet, page 8, that "*personal application has been made by PEDDLING COMPILERS, to teachers and others, for the purpose of inducing them to lay aside my book (alluding to his Spelling-Book) and use their own!*" Again; he says, on page 2, "this duodecimo volume, my last work; all written and corrected by myself," [MYSELF?] (who else would write *Webster's* dictionary, but [MYSELF?] Mr. WEBSTER?) "is to be considered as containing the pointing, orthography, and pronunciation, which I [!] most approve;" although on page 3, in the preface prefixed to the octavo dictionary, published *but six months* previous to the date of the preface from which the preceding extract is made, he stated, that "The *quarto* edition will, of course, be considered as presenting his EXACT views of the proper arrangement and exhibition of words, in respect to their ORTHOGRAPHY and PRONUNCIATION"!! Again, on page 1 of his pamphlet, published the past year, he has stated, that "one very important object of this series of books, (quarto, octavo, duodecimo, and Elementary Spelling-Book,) is to reduce to uniformity," thereby conveying the idea that these four books are "uniform" and consistent in their orthography!

I now propose to show that "this duodecimo volume, his last work, all written and corrected by himself," is no more to be consulted as a "STANDARD OF ORTHOGRAPHY," than the quarto and octavo dictionaries, the contradictions, inconsistencies, and anomalies of which I have already pointed out.

All the contradictions and inconsistencies in the orthography of the class of words which end with *ck*, except *hassock*, pointed out on page 8, contained in the quarto, remain in the duodecimo! The following inconsistency, contained both in the quarto and octavo, is still retained in the duodecimo. He has spelled *mimic*, when a noun, without *k*, and with it when a verb; yet he has made no such distinction in the words *frelick* and *traffick*, having spelled them with *k*, when a noun and verb! This innovation makes another "anomaly" in our language, that of spelling the noun and verb differently, when they are pronounced alike.

The orthography of the class of words which end with *er*, in the quarto, as the preferable orthography, pointed out on page 9, he has changed back to the orthography of the quarto, with all the contradictions pointed out on that page, with the addition of *ser* or *sever* more! and has given the termination *er* the preference, contrary to the octavo, published six months previous! Thus, in the quarto, he has spelled *fiber*, *luster*, *meter*, *oyster*, and *specter*, but *one way*, with *er*; but in the duodecimo he has spelled them *two ways*, *er* and *re* both! The word *belleslettres* he has spelled with *re* in the quarto and octavo, but with *er* in the duodecimo!

In the duodecimo, he has six different ways of exhibiting the orthography of this class of words, which end with *er* or *re*. Thus, *center*; *aere*; *amphitheater*, [or *tre*]; *fiber*; *fibre*; *luster*; *lustre*; and *scepter*, [sceptre]!!! Quite a "uniformity" indeed, which is "a prime excellence in spelling." He condemns, in the introduction to his quarto, the termination *red* in *sceptred*, yet he has, in the text of the quarto, octavo, and duodecimo, spelled *hungred* with this termination, although *hunger* is spelled with the termination *er*!

The class of words which end with *ff* in the octavo, as the preferable orthography, he has changed back to the orthography of the quarto, with single *f*, with two or three additional

*contradictions* not in the quarto! Thus, he has spelled *mastif* and *mastiff*, with single *f* and *ff*! He has *restif* and *restive*, with *f* and *ive*! He has *distaff* with *ff*, but all of the other words end with single *f*! He has, after the words *sherif* and *tarif*, inserted [*sheriff*] and [*tariff*] with *ff*, in brackets; but he has not inserted the old orthography of any other words except [*sheriff*] and [*tariff*] in brackets, after the *new* orthography!

He has, in the duodecimo, spelled *midriff* with *ff*, contrary to his text in defining *diaphragm*. He has, in the duodecimo, all the inconsistencies in the class of words which end in *ance* and *ence*, pointed out on page 10; but he spelled *entrance*, (*verb.*) with *c*, *contrary* to the quarto, in the duodecimo of 1829!

In the orthography of the word *ache* and its compounds, he has not, in the duodecimo, as many *contradictions* as in the quarto, pointed out on page 10, for he has only *part* of the words. Thus, he has not *bellyache* or *boneache* in the duodecimo; but he has some *new* contradictions not in either the quarto or octavo! As, *headache*, *headake*; *heartache*, *heartake*, with *che* and *k* both; but *toothache* with *che* only! when *headache* and *heartache* are spelled but *one* way either in the quarto or octavo. Thus, he has these two words each spelled *three* ways, in his *three* dictionaries. [See pages 10 and 11.]

The *contradictions* in the orthography of the class of words which end in *l* or *ll*, pointed out on page 11, remain the same in the duodecimo, except that he has *added* to the number of them; thus, he has *medalist* with single *l*, and *metallist* with *ll*, *contradictory*, but both alike, with *ll*, in the quarto and octavo! In the quarto and octavo, he has spelled *withal*, therewithal, and wherewithal, with single *l*, but in the duodecimo, he has spelled *withal* with *ll*, *contrary* to the quarto and octavo, and *therewithal* and *wherewithal* with single *l*, *agreeing* with them! and the *l* should be doubled in *all* of them agreeably to his rule. Again, he has not doubled *l* in *extol*, "which must be doubled in the derivation" *extolling*, &c.; but has spelled it as Johnson and Walker have. He has, in the duodecimo, spelled *brimfull* with *ll*, *contrary* to the quarto and octavo, and *handful* with single *ll*! A great many of the words pointed out on page 12, as *contradictory*, are not in the duodecimo; but in those which *are* inserted, the contradictions still exist; as, *vizard* with *z*, and *unwisard* with *s*! *intralld* with *i*, and *unintralld* with *e*! *referee* with single *r*, and *transferee* with *rr*! &c. &c. He has, in the duodecimo, *apposit*, *apposity*, and *appositness*, without *e*, and *opposite*, *oppositly*, and *oppositness*, with *e*! but all of them have *e* in the quarto and octavo, so that this *contradiction* does not exist in either of them! He has, in the duodecimo, *scurilous*, *scurilously*, and *scuriousness*, with single *r*, but with *rr* in the quarto and octavo! He has *berylline* and *coralline* with *ll*, and *crystalline* with single *ll*! He has *kale* with *k*, and *seacale* *c*! He has, in the duodecimo, spelled *bulder*, *bilder*; *building*, *bilding*; and *built*, *bilt*, *two* ways, with *ai* and with *i* only, but in the quarto and octavo, *one* way, with *ui*! He has also spelled *built*, *bilt*, *two* ways, but *airbuik* but *one*! In the duodecimo, he has spelled *burden*, *disburden*, and *overburden*, *one* way, with *i* only; but *unburthen*, *unburden*, with *th* and *d*, and has given *th* the preference! He has, in the duodecimo, *torsion* with *s*, and *detortion* with *l*! In the quarto, *calice*, without *h*, is the "preferable orthography;" although *chalice* is spelled with *h*; but in the duodecimo *chalice* is spelled with *h* only! He has, in the quarto and octavo, spelled *cumfrey*, *comfrey*, and *comfy*, *three* ways, but in the duodecimo he has it but *one* way, *comfy*, the orthography the least preferred either in the quarto or octavo! He has, in the duodecimo, spelled *pierce* *one* way, with *ic* only; but *unpierced*, *unperced*, with *ic* and *c* both, *contrary* to the quarto and octavo! He has, in the duodecimo, spelled *unsteadfast*, *unstedfast*, and its derivatives, *two* ways, with *ca* and *e* only, but in the quarto and octavo *one* way, *ca*! He has, in the duodecimo, spelled *venturesome* with *e* after the *r*, but *adventursome* without *e*! In the duodecimo, he has *burg* without *h*, and *burgher* with it! He has *acruing* without *e*, and *rueing* with it! He has *bulfinch* with *ll*, and *bulrush* with single *l*, and the *u* preceding the *l* has the same sound in each. In the quarto and octavo, he has given *villany*, without *i*, the preference, and has spelled *archvillany* without *i*; but in the duodecimo he has spelled *villainy* with *i*! In the duodecimo, he has changed the orthography of *chemistry* and its derivatives, back to the quarto, *contrary* to the octavo!

Octavo.	Duodecimo.	Octavo.	Duodecimo.
Chemistry	Chimistry	Alchemical	Alchimical
Chemical	Chimicall	Alchemically	Alchimically
Chemically	Chimicary	Alchemist	Alchimist
Chemist	Chimist	Alchemistic	Alchimistic
Alchemic	Alchimic	Alchemistical	Alchimistical
		Alchemy	Alchimy!

He has, in the duodecimo, changed the orthography of *plough* and its derivatives, back to the quarto, *contrary* to the octavo!

Octavo.	Duodecimo	Octavo.	Duodecimo.
Plough	Plowing	Ploughman	Plowman
Ploughing	Plowed	Ploughshare	Plowshare
Ploughed		Drillplough	Drillplow
Ploughland	Plowland	Unploughed	Unplowed



In the duodecimo, he has spelled *farlow* with *mc*, *contrary* to the octavo, in which it is *furlough*! He has, in the duodecimo, spelled *bridgroom* without *r* in the last syllable, agreeably to the quarto, but *contrary* to the octavo, as *bridgroom*, without *r* in the last syllable, does not appear either in the text or definitions of the octavo! He has, in the duodecimo, changed the orthography of *ribin*, back to the quarto, *contrary* to the octavo! In the duodecimo, he has spelled *melasses* with *e*, *contrary* to the octavo, in which *molasses* is given as the preferable orthography. In the octavo, he has given *porpoise* the preference, but in the duodecimo, he has it *porps*! In the duodecimo, he has *nightmar* without final *e*, but in the octavo with *e*, as the preferable orthography. He has, in the duodecimo, changed the orthography of *hagard* and *hagardly*, back to the quarto, *contrary* to the octavo! He has *l* single in *alough*, *always*, and *jackal*, in which the *a* is broad, and the *l* should be doubled agreeably to his rule, "that single *l* would lead to a false pronunciation!" He has in the duodecimo, *apposit* without final *e*, and *inapposite* with it, *contrary* to the quarto and octavo! In the duodecimo, he has *gazetteer* with *ll*, and *garraeer* with single *l*! He has in the duodecimo, *foliaceous* with *ous*, and *extrafoliacious* with *ious*! He has *diphylous* with single *l*, and *hexaphyllous* with *ll*! He has in the duodecimo, *lunge* with *u*, and *allonge* with *o*! In the duodecimo he has *pinnate* with *i*, *bipinnate* with *e*, and *tripinnate*, *tripinnate* with *e* and *i* both! In the duodecimo, he has *gillyflower* with *y*, and *dovegillflower* with *i*! He has *clanish* and *clanishness* with single *n*, *contrary* to the rule of spelling derivative words, which is, that a consonant that ends a monosyllable or a word accented on the last syllable, preceded by a single vowel, should be doubled, when a syllable is added beginning with a vowel, as *span*, *spanning*, &c. In the duodecimo, he has *turkey*, *turky*, with *cy* and *y* both, but all the other words of this class, as *jockey*, *lack-y*, &c., he has spelled but one way! He has, in the duodecimo, spelled *stead*, *sted*, with *ea* and *e*, both ways, but instead one way, *ca*!

On page 13, I have pointed out what qualities a dictionary should possess in an eminent degree, if intended to be a "Standard of Orthography." This duodecimo dictionary is as *defective* as either the quarto or octavo, particularly as he has exhibited a greater *want of decision* in giving the orthography of each word than in them. Thus, he has all the varieties of spelling the different words, pointed out on pages 14, 15 and 16, as, *apostrophe*, *apostrophy*; *epitome*, *epitomy*; *enlist*, *inlist*; *entwine*, *ptwine*, &c. &c. He has, in the quarto, spelled *proceed*, *procede*; *succeed*, *succede*; and *exceed* three *different* ways; but in the duodecimo he has changed them back to the orthography of Johnson and Walker, all with *eed*! In the duodecimo, he has, in the orthography of the words which end in *ant*, a great many *contradictions*. Thus, *launt* has *daunt* and *taunt* one way, but *flaunt*, *flant*; *haunt*, *hant*; and *vaunt*, *vant*, *two* ways! Again; although he has given these three words *two* ways, he has given *vauing*, *vaping*, *two* ways; *flaunting* but *one* way and the participle *haunting* is not inserted at all! He has, in the duodecimo, *strow*, *strowed*; *strew*, *strewing*, *strewed*, without having given any preference! He has, in the duodecimo, spelled *craunch*, *cranch*; *haunch*, *haunch*, *two* ways, and *stanch* but *one* way. In the duodecimo, he has *Czar*, *czar*; *Czarina*, *Tzerina* with *Cz* and *Tz*! He has no *decision* at all in his orthography; for instance, he says in the quarto, that *wiry* is preferable to *wiery*, yet he has placed *wiery* first in the duodecimo! He says in his new Spelling-Book, page 137, that *many* words which are spelled *d* with *ce* should be with *c* only; but in his duodecimo dictionary he has some of them with *one* spelling, others with *two*; as, *spread*, *spred*; *treach*, *stead*, *sted*, &c. &c.; he has also some of the participles with *one* spelling, others with *two*; as, *spreading*, *spredling*, *treading*, &c. He has *sovereign* and *soveran*, both ways, in the duodecimo, without having given a preference! The *contradictions* pointed out on pages 16, 17, and 18, between the editions and text in orthography, are not as numerous in the duodecimo as in the octavo and quarto, as most of the definitions are changed and abbreviated, yet the greater part of them which are inserted, remain *contradictory*, as, *holiday* under *ferial*; *faggot* under *damage*; *entrust* under *confident*; *ensnare* under *catch*; *intreat* under *obscerate*; *intreaty* under *obsceration*; *halbert* under *glair*; *supify* under *dull*, &c. &c. Again; he has in the duodecimo, in defining *anony*, spelled *blomery*, *contrary* to his text, *blomary*; in defining *travesty* he has spelled *d* *burlesk* with *k*, which is not the orthography that he has preferred in his text! In the duodecimo, the definitions of the words *subtile* and *subtle* are confounded. In the duodecimo, he has, in defining *nauseous* and *nauseousness*, spelled *loathsome* with *e*, *contrary* to his text *lothsome*! &c. &c.

It is very improper and perplexing to exhibit *two* different spellings of the same word; for, the scholar will always hesitate in spelling it, sometimes using one orthography, sometimes the other; as *vauit* and *vant*, *unburthen* and *unburden*, *st-ril* and *st-rib*, &c. &c.; yet Mr. Webster has, in his duodecimo, not only given two different spellings of the same word, when coupled together, as *vauit*, *vant*, *hunch*, *hunch*, &c.; but he has given two different spellings of the same word, when not coupled, with the *same* or *similar* definitions! Thus, *sovereign* (*a.*) *supreme* in power; *soveran* (*a.*) *supreme* in power, *chuf*; *soverign* (*n.*) a *supreme* ruler; *soveran* (*n.*) a *supreme* lord or ruler; *soverignty*, *supremacy*, *supreme* dominion; *soveranty*, *supreme* power, *supremaey*; *ache*, to be in pain; *ake*, to be in *continued* pain! *vant*, *vauit*, to boast, to brag; *vauit*, *vant*, to boast, to brag! *enlistment*, *act*

of enlisting; inlistment, act of inlisting! engrained, dyed in the grain; ingrained, dyed in the grain! encase, to inclose in a case; incase, to inclose in a case! engage, to confine in a cage; incage, to confine in a cage! &c. &c. &c. His system can not be *complete*, unless he shall give *all* the different spellings of the *same* word in each of his *four* books, viz. Quarto, Octavo, Duodecimo, and his new Spelling-Book; as steril, sterile; vaunt, vant, &c. &c.

Mr. Webster's duodecimo dictionary is very deficient in one important particular. Many words in common use are not contained in it; as, achor, ambitious, arc, asseverate, benignant, bruit, cantharides, capias, chronometer, composite, dictation, discrepancy, discrepant, execution, suspire, fascine, indign, logarithms, observatory, stupidity, &c. &c. *all* of which, except discrepancy and execution, are in his new Spelling-Book! and there are numerous other words, not above enumerated, contained in his new Spelling-Book, which are not in the duodecimo dictionary, "for the use of PRIMARY SCHOOLS!!" [See page 38.] On page 131 of his new Spelling-Book, he has, in the second column, *seven* words, only *one* of which is in his duodecimo school dictionary! As this review is limited to the *orthography* of the language, no particular notice will be taken of the *CONTRADICTIONS in pronunciation* which exist between the octavo and duodecimo dictionaries. These are more numerous than even the *contradictions* in orthography, particularly in the division of words. Thus, in the

Octavo.	Duodecimo.	Octavo.	Duodecimo.
Ax- <i>i</i> -om	Ax- <i>i</i> -om	Ev- <i>e</i> -ry	Ev- <i>e</i> -ry
Aux- <i>i</i> - <i>i</i> -a-ry	Aux- <i>i</i> - <i>i</i> -a-ry	Gen- <i>e</i> -r-al	Gen- <i>e</i> -ral
Bagn- <i>i</i> -o	Bag- <i>n</i> -io	Gen- <i>e</i> -r-ous	Gen- <i>e</i> -rous
Do-mes- <i>t</i> -i-cate	Do-mes- <i>t</i> -ic-ate.	Com- <i>i</i> -cal	Com- <i>i</i> -cal

He has, in the quarto and duodecimo, given the *short* broad sound in fault, default, assault, &c., and the *long* broad sound in the octavo! Again; he has a great many *contradictions*, in the duodecimo, in the division of words of similar or precisely the same form or termination. Thus,

Anx- <i>i</i> -ous and	Over-anx- <i>i</i> -ous	Pest- <i>i</i> -len- <i>t</i> -ial	An- <i>t</i> -i- <i>p</i> -es- <i>t</i> -i- <i>l</i> -en- <i>t</i> -ial
Nox- <i>i</i> -ous	In-nox- <i>i</i> -ous	In-cum-bent	Su-per-in-cumb-ent
Car-riage	Wheel-car-riage	Crus-ta- <i>c</i> -eous	Trut-ta- <i>c</i> -eous
Win-dow	Der-mar-win-dow	Leg- <i>i</i> -on	Re- <i>g</i> -i-on
Fe-brile	An- <i>t</i> -i-feb-rile	Li-tig- <i>i</i> -ous	Pro-dig- <i>i</i> -ous, &c. &c.

The *contradictions* in division are so numerous, that the limits of this review will not permit me to point out one *twentieth* part of them. He has, in the pronunciation, in the quarto, octavo, and duodecimo, changed a great many words to that of *Walker*, contrary to his former dictionaries and Spelling-Book; as angel, danger, arc, folio, convenient, &c. &c. although he has said that *Walker's* pronunciation is not heard in "any *decent* society in England"! The keys in the different dictionaries are different, which create some perplexity; for instance, attorney in the octavo, and attorney in the duodecimo, &c. &c.

Again; he is not consistent or uniform in noting the silent letters by printing them in *Italic* in all cases, when silent, in the duodecimo; as, receive with *p* *Italic*, contempt with *p* Roman! often with *t* Roman, and soften with *t* *Italic*! mountain with *t* *Italic*, and glisten with *t* Roman, when *all* of them have *t* silent, agreeable to his new Spelling-Book, page 140! &c. &c.

Mr. Webster has, in the introduction to the quarto, in page 3 of the duodecimo, and page 11 of his pamphlet, published during the past year, spelled *enthall* with *e*, contrary to the text of *all* his dictionaries, in which it is spelled with *i*! In short, to point out *all* the *contradictions*, *inconsistencies*, and *anomalies*, in orthography, pronunciation, accent, and division of words, which exist in the quarto, octavo, and duodecimo, would require a book as large as the duodecimo dictionary itself; and I must therefore be content with having pointed out a part of each, that the reader may have a clew or index to them, and examine them at his leisure.

## REVIEW

OF

# MR. WEBSTER'S AMERICAN SPELLING-BOOK.

FIRST PUBLISHED IN THE ALBANY ARGUS, IN 1827—8.

As the publishers of Mr. Webster's new *Elementary Spelling-Book*, compiled by AARON ELY, have reserved to themselves the right to publish either the *old* or the *new* Spelling-Book, as should best suit their interests, I have concluded to insert the review of the *old Spelling-Book* which was published in the *Albany Argus*, except that part which particularly relates to Mr. Webster's innovations in the orthography of his *old Spelling-Book*, and Dictionaries published in 1805 and 1817. For this part of that review, the reader is referred to pages 7, 8, 9 and 10 of this Review, in which the impropriety of those innovations is taken into consideration.

Mr. Webster's spelling-book was founded upon, and succeeded Dilworth's. It was so superior to its predecessor, in many respects, as to acquire an immediate and unparalleled popularity, which it has sustained with little interruption for more than *forty years*. So magical indeed has been the charm of popularity woven around it, that all desire for, or efforts to improvement, seem to have been paralyzed; and it is not until within a few years, that any successful attempts have been made to improve upon this popular system. The merits of Mr. Webster's book have been duly considered by me; and while I would award to him the just meed of praise for timely efforts in the cause of education, I am not disposed to deny, that, since our systems of instruction have undergone much change, and the elements of our language have been more closely investigated and more clearly defined, useful improvements in the department in which Mr. Webster was so successful may be made, if they be not, in fact, from circumstances and the spirit of the age, absolutely required. Great caution is necessary, however, that the laudable spirit of improvement, and the love of variety and change, should not be imposed upon by speculators and pretenders; and that a work, entitled to respect for the good which it has hitherto been instrumental in effecting, should not be driven from the public confidence, except by one of equal or superior merits.

First—as the guiding principles of my investigation, I will state the leading characteristics of such a Spelling-Book as I should deem worthy of a general introduction into our primary schools.

1. It should contain as great a number of the words in common use as practicable, to the exclusion of extraneous and irrelevant matter; as many who attend our primary schools have no other opportunity of acquiring a correct knowledge of the elements of our language.

2. The classification of words should be judicious and distinct; and the system adopted be strictly and correctly adhered to.

3. The arrangement should be plain and simple, with a due regard to the expanding capacities and the progressive improvement of the learner.

4. In orthography and orthoepy it should correspond with the standard dictionary of the country; or strictly conform with the principles of the work it professes to follow: for the *dictionary*, and not the *spelling-book*, must be the standard of reference; and hence the importance, for the uniformity and correctness of our language, that the latter work should be founded and carefully constructed upon the principles of the former.

### CONTENTS.

Mr. Webster's spelling-book comprises 169 pages: 14 of which are introductory; 66 contain words taken from the dictionary; 29 pages contain the names of persons, places, &c.; 47 contain reading lessons; 8 contain pictures, and fables; and 4 pages contain numbers, abbreviations, explanations of the characters used in writing, and a census of the United States.

Thus we find that 18 pages less than half of Mr. Webster's spelling-book, are devoted to the insertion of spelling lessons, containing words of our language to the number of 6930, including the examples of the formation of plurals, derivative and compound words to the number of 1150, so that there are only 5900 words of the language in his book arranged expressly for spelling, with the pronunciation noted; of these 5900 words, 229 are inserted more than once in the different spelling lessons, not including those subject to different accentuation when differently applied; as, page 19, *spike* and *spike*: 18 and 19, *ape*, *ride*, *vide*: 19 and 35, *hence*, *penne*, *fence*, *fetch*, *rinse*, *brick*, *stick*, *kick*; page 30 and 31, *adversity*: page 32, and 33, *slay*: page 23 and 51 *alone*: page 66 and 67, *admissible*: page 35 and 146, *course*, *coarse*, *know*, *heio* *new*: 13 and 113, *sale*, *vale*, &c. &c. Mr. Webster's spelling lessons are also quite deficient inasmuch as he has not, in any of them, inserted any words of four syllables accented on the fourth, as *superintendent*, *multiplian*, &c.: words of five syllables accented on the fourth, as *administrator*, *superintendent*, &c.; words of six or seven syllables with their different accentuation, as *supernumery*, *illegitimacy*, *indfatigable*, *superiority*, *encyclopedic*, *impracticability*, &c. Again, Mr. Webster omitted a great many words in most common use: as, abhorrence, abridge, absorb, abstain, abundance, academy, access, accord, accost, accuse, acquirement, achieve, acute, adapt, adopt, adult, advancement, adverb, advice, affect, agent, aggress, agree, accuse, alledge, allegation, alliance, alley, alphabet, ambush, analyze, angle, animate, annual, appeal, apple, argue, armour, article, assault, assemble, assist, assistance, associate, atmosphere, attain, attract, attribute, austere, avail, avarice, average, averse, avow, await, award, axis, axle, &c. &c. throughout the whole language, a great portion of the most common words was entirely omitted, by Mr. Webster, in the spelling lessons of his *old Spelling Book*.

The omission of these words is a very great defect, as most of them are very important words, and in general use; these classes of words were inserted in the spelling-books of Dilworth and Perry. In consequence of the fewness of words in Mr. Webster's spelling-book, those scholars who use it cannot become acquainted with one half of the words in common use, either in their orthography or pronunciation; and consequently the scholar will find words in almost every sentence of his reading lessons, with the orthography or pronunciation of which he is wholly unacquainted, not having seen them in his spelling lessons of the same book.

And again: there are a great many words in the spelling lessons of his Spelling-Book which are not in his dictionary published in 1817, "compiled for the use of common schools in the United States," of course intended to be used with his Spelling-Book, containing these words; and some of these are not even in his "Compendious Dictionary" published in 1805!

Those in italick are not in the "compendious dictionary": *Acanthus*, *annunciate*, *antibacchus*, *apostolical*, *apropos*, *astrological*, *bed*, *bedchamber*, *belles-lettres*, *belore*, *bibliothecal*, *boize*, *botany*, *cachexy*, *cantharids*, *cantherus*, *cantharis*, *capuchin*, *carle*, *catechumen*, *caught*, *charade*, *chamois*, *chance*, *chans*, *chevrl*, *chevrisance*, *chirography*, *chevauxdefrise*, *chorography*, *chromatic*, *chronometer*, *clomb*, *cogger*, *cogitate*, *cognizor*, *cognizee*, *conclu-*

\* It may not be improper to state here, that in consequence of the publication of this review in the *Albany Argus*, Mr. Webster abandoned his *old Spelling-Book*, and employed Mr. Aaron Ely to compile a *new* one, which was published more than two years before the *new* right of the *old Spelling-Book* expired, (Sept. 15, 1831) and every effort was made to push it into use. That Mr. Webster would not have published a *new Spelling-Book*, had not the criticisms in the *Albany Argus* been given to the publick, is, I think fairly to be inferred from the two following statements made by him in his APPEAL "TO THE PUBLICK," published in New Haven, March, 1828.

Thus Mr. Webster remarked, "My tables, especially those of irregular words, the most important of all the classes, are so constructed, and so nearly complete, THAT THEY CANNOT BE IMPROVED." And he remarks further "My Spelling-Book, which has had an unparalleled sale, and has, it is believed, had a very extensive effect in facilitating the acquisition of the language and in purifying the popular pronunciation from vulgarities—WILL BE ADJUSTED (not that he would write or cause to be written a *new one*) to conform with the dictionary in pronunciation." The preceding remarks, it must be recollected, were published but a few weeks previous to the publication of the criticism in the *Argus*.



strait streight, praise prays, balse bays, tray trey, ho bee, ye yea, seal cell, shear shiro (sheer not in the spelling-book); tier ter, need, knead, seem sean, leaf lif, feet feot, reek wreck, mill mean; queen quean, reeve, reave, leave lieve, freeze frizee, high hie, clime climb, slow sloe, pole poll, holl bowl, hoar whoe, known none, moan mown, home house, slew slue, ark arc, bolt bolt, laste, hoop whoop, ooze ouc-c, tierce terse, verge virge, boy buoy, throw thro, with weth, weather wether, wheel wheel: Fourthly; there are also in the preceding lessons fifty-seven words each of which has another word corresponding in sound in Mr. Webster's dictionary, not one of which is in this table (53.) or in any other spelling lesson of his book, consequently the scholar cannot, from the use of Webster's spelling lessons, become acquainted with the orthography or distinctive definitions of the fifty-seven words corresponding in sound with these; as, but, wale, glare, time, holy, cruel, better, pencil, calendar, bay, day, hay, wail, wain, gauge, bait, gut, steak, kneel, peer, seat, seal, mead, wean, leach, beach, rhyme, stie, toll, pour, blot, loan, port, hourl, flew, fruit, janib, wretch, knit, para, oucht, naught, wall, shock, tongue, rout, single, subtle, counsellor, session, anchor, pique, gild, rigger, whole, bean: Fifthly; there are likewise about one hundred words of this class in Webster's dictionary, that is, two or more of which are sounded alike but spelled differently, not one of which is classed in table 53, neither are they in any other spelling lesson of Webster's spelling-book, consequently the scholar will never be taught their sound, orthography, or distinctive definitions from Webster's spelling lessons, neither will he even learn that there are such words in the language; as creek creek, goor goer, place place, bell belle, dum dunn, marsh martial, clazrin slazgin, &c. &c.: Sixthly; as Mr. Webster has not given the pronunciation of the words in table 53, we cannot be certain from his book how he intended a number of these classes should be pronounced; as, altar alter, a-cent assent, covass covas, cell sell, century century, lessou lesson, metal mettle, pear pare, rest wrest, &c.; although he says at the head of this lesson "Words of the same sound," yet he has not given the pronunciation of either of the words of the preceding classes, in this or any other spelling lesson in his book: Seventhly; there is a number of classes in table 53, in which he has classed only two words of similar sound when there are three in his other spelling lessons, as l in his Dictionary; as, by buy, pear pare, seen scene, sent sent, too two, vein vein, you yew; and not bye, pair, seim, cent, to, vain, and ewe: Eighthly; there is a number of words classed in this table as being sounded alike, which evidently are not, and should not be; as, century and century, charmed and charice, curtant and current, principal and principle; and the five following words are not so spelled even in Webster's Dictionary; *lass* (in the sense here given,) *fellon*, *seignor*, *slcar*, and *vise*: Ninthly; many of the definitions of these words in table 53, are extremely *incorrect* and *absurd*, and at variance with the definitions of the same words in Webster's Dictionary; as *char*, for sacrifice; *bier*, to carry the dead; *burrow*, for rabbits; *pane*, a weather cock; *traw*, for coils, &c. &c. for the definition of which, see Webster's Dictionary. For nearly all the defects in this lesson, Mr. Webster is, undoubtedly, very much indebted to Mr. Dilworth, as most of them had their origin in Dilworth's spelling-book.

Again; Mr. Webster's classification is extremely defective in another particular also; for, he has not taken notice of the words which are differently pronounced, as they are differently applied. He has not informed us at all in his spelling-book, that the same word has differently accent or pronunciation in his spelling lessons, nor even told us that there are such words in the language. There are in the language, acknowledged by Mr. Webster in his Dictionary, eighty words subject to different pronunciation, only eleven of which are in the spelling lessons of his spelling-book, and these are intermingled in the different lessons without any regard to their classification or peculiar use in the language. For instance; he has but *four* of these words in any of his spelling lessons with the different accentuation noted; as *subject*, pp. 23 and 25; *combat*, pp. 23 and 24; *confure*, pp. 24 and 49; *invalid* 26 and 28; the *fourteen* following words are inserted with only one accentuation noted; neither can we learn from his spelling-book that they ever should be differently accented; as *convert*, p. 23; *confine*, collect, gallant, impress, p. 24; *project*, protest, concert, p. 25; *rebel*, p. 27; *moment*, transport, p. 43; *des* 41, p. 52; *compound*, p. 53; *precedent*, p. 101; of the remaining 62 words of this class, which are of great importance to the scholar, he will for ever remain ignorant, unless he shall refer to some other source, than Webster's spelling-book, as absent, frequent, minute, retail, digest, export, import, record, prefix, produce, content, accent, insult, extract, transfer, contest, contract, contrast, converse, object, attribute, august, &c. &c. are not in any of the spelling lessons of his book: Again; there are many words differently pronounced when differently applied, none of which are classed in his spelling-book. Some of these words are inserted and intermingled in the different spelling lessons with the different pronunciation; as *tear*, pages 22 and 23; *lead*, p. 23 and 47; *use*, p. 25; *moor*, pp. 21 and 49; *saw*, 40 and 113; others are inserted with only one pronunciation noted in any of the lessons, neither can we learn from his spelling-book that they ever should be differently pronounced; *put*, page 17; *whip*, p. 15; *cow*, p. 25; *house*, p. 40; *abuse*, p. 51, &c. but there are others of this class, which are not in any of his spelling lessons, as *induce*, *disuse*, *excuse*, *aven*, *tarry*, *diffuse*, *lower*, &c. &c.

Although there are obvious defects in the classification of these consonant sounds which Mr. Webster has noted in his analysis, yet his spelling book is still more defective in that he has not told or classed many particular consonant sounds, of which whole classes are distinguished and distinguished through his spelling lessons. Of these I shall take notice when treating of his final consonant pronunciation.

ARRANGEMENT.

It will no doubt be readily admitted, that next in importance to the proper classification of words intended for spelling lessons, containing the different and peculiar vowel and consonant sounds, is the due arrangement of the words thus classed, according to the ease or difficulty with which the orthography and pronunciation are learned.

Immediately succeeding the alphabet, are two tables containing monosyllables for the scholar's first exercise in spelling; and at the close of these are three lessons, containing "Lessons for the formation of the plural from the singular and of other derivatives." As these lessons contain many words in the singular form, with the orthography or pronunciation of which the scholar is yet unacquainted, these examples, or do not to have been inserted here, more particularly as there are no figures over the columns to denote the vowel sounds as in other cases, nor is *s* in italick at the end of the plural to denote its sound of *s*, *z*, *sh*, and *ch*, as usually. After these are tables 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11, containing words of two and four syllables, with the different vowel sounds and accentuation noted; then table 12, containing monosyllables more difficult than the preceding, at the close of which is another lesson of "Examples of the formation of plurals, and of other derivatives." I cannot conceive why Mr. Webster inserted two lessons of this kind, more particularly as some of the words are in both: As in the other similar lesson, there are no figures to denote the vowel sounds, nor are silent letters noted by being printed in italick, as in other lessons, except the *w* in *bow*, *baw*, *bael* and *bars!* Tables 14 and 16 contain words of two syllables, more difficult than the preceding; and table 17, contains "Examples of words derived from their roots or primitives, plural nouns of two syllables," &c. Mr. Webster has not given either rules, figures or italick letters to denote the pronunciation of these words; and what renders this defect more perplexing, both to teacher and scholar, is that a great part of these words is not in the other spelling lessons of his book where their pronunciation is given, or in Webster's Dictionary, consequently it cannot be learned from either: Tables 19, 21, 23, 24, 26, and 29, contain words of three, four and five syllables, in which the accentuation, vowel sounds, and silent letters are noted. The most prominent defects in these and the preceding tables, are in orthography and pronunciation, which will be taken notice of hereafter. Tables 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, and 44, contain words in which the peculiar consonant sounds are classed: *t* sounded like *sh* and *sh*; *s* like *sh*; *ar* made and sounded like *o* long; *s* and *z* sounded like *ch*; *c* and *t* like *sh*; *l* like *sh*; the different sound of *ch*; *o* like *e* and *sh*; *g* hard before *e*, *i*, and *y*; *c* and *g* soft like *s* and *j* at the end of accented syllables; *h* pronounced before *o*, though written after it; and *z* pronounced like *z*. I think it will appear evident to every person, on examination, that these lessons are not all arranged with due regard to the ease of learning, either in their orthography or pronunciation; for instance; the words in which *ow* have the sound of *o* long, table 32, are *cow*, *now*, *how*, in which *t* has the sound of *sh* and *sh*, and *s* the sound of *sh*, table 30; the words containing the silent *u* in table 10, *th*, table 7, are easier than those in which *t* has the sound of *sh* and *sh*, and *s* the sound of *sh*, table 30; *s* and *z* the sound of *ch*, table 33; *c* and *t* the sound of *sh*, tables 34 and 35; and *t* the sound of *sh*, table 37; the words in which *g* is hard before *e*, *i* and *y*, table 40; *h* pronounced before *o* though written after it, table 43; and *z* pronounced like *z*, table 44, are easier than those words in which *c*, *t* and *s* are pronounced like *sh*; *s* and *z* like *ch*; *ch* pronounced like *e*, table 29; and *ch* like *sh*, table 39; yet all the former of these tables above referred to, are placed after the latter. Table 46 consists of sixteen "Examples of the formation of derivatives and compound words." As was stated with regard to table 17, Mr. Webster has given neither rules, figures nor Italick letters to denote the pronunciation of these words; and, as not more than one half of these words are in the other spelling lessons where their pronunciation is noted, it cannot be learned from this book. At the close of this table, p. 111, is a class of "Compound Words." In this list are *landaz*, *Charlstonen*, and *Georgewen*. If the above be compound words, why are not *landford*, p. 47, and *James town*, p.

130, (and a number of similar words in the other lessons,) also called compound words, and classed with these Tables 49, 49, 50 and 51, comprising 29 pages, contain the names of persons, places, rivers, lakes, &c. All of these words are here given without any classification, relative to the vowel or consonant sounds; and neither rules nor figures are given to denote their pronunciation. This defect in the classification and pronunciation of this large number of words, has caused great diversity in their pronunciation among teachers, and has greatly embarrassed them and their pupils. Thus we shall find, on examination, that of the lessons intended for spelling, forty pages contain words, to represent the pronunciation of which, Mr. Webster has not given any classification, figure or rules. Many of these words are spelled differently from the Geographies, Gazetteers, and Histories of the present day; as it seems evident that Mr. Webster has not paid much attention to their correction since he first published his spelling-book!

### ORTHOGRAPHY.

I shall now take notice of the *orthography* of Mr. Webster's Spelling-Book; particularly as it regards a comparison of it with Mr. Webster's *Dictionaries*, published in 1806 and 1817, and Dilworth's Spelling-Book. As Mr. Webster has not, in his Spelling-Book, professed to follow any particular Standard, but has published a dictionary himself since the first publication of his spelling-book, to the orthography of which we might reasonably expect him to conform his spelling-book; it will not, I presume, be considered injustice in me to show wherein the orthography of his spelling-book and dictionary is at variance; and also to show that much of this erroneous spelling was evidently copied by Mr. Webster from Dilworth's spelling-book, as many of these words are spelled in Webster's spelling-book as they are in Dilworth's, contrary to Webster's dictionary. About twenty years or more after the first publication of his spelling-book, Mr. Webster published "A compendious Dictionary of the English Language." This was in the year 1806. In the year 1817, Mr. Webster published "A Dictionary of the English Language; compiled for the use of Common Schools in the United States." With these two dictionaries I have compared his spelling-book, and have found the following words spelled differently. The words in italics are spelled in Dilworth's as in Webster's spelling-book, contrary to both of the editions of Webster's dictionary referred to. As, trissyllable p. 10; *chace* p. 18; *dyer*, *Julye* p. 21; *Jaggot*, *hansel*, *pennel*, *sadler*, *sallad* p. 22; *tattler*, *jockey*, *spinet* p. 23; *impale* p. 24; *offence*, *substract* p. 25; *ecstasy* p. 26; *empunnel* p. 28; *epitome* p. 30; *apostacy* p. 31; *caliman-co* p. 32; *balse*, *maize* p. 33; *doat*, *holme*, *shew*, *sluice* p. 35; *clench*, *niche*, *rince*, *bault*, *moult*, *crumb* p. 36; *staunch*, *luste*, *swash*, *fosse*, *mosque*, *launch*, *scout* p. 38; *bourne*, *ouse*, *cropp*, *ton* p. 39; *ronit*, *grey*, *skein*, *streight*, *sponge* p. 40; *thowl*, *thwak*, *loth* p. 41; *meethe*, *though*, *seethe* p. 42; *woe* p. 44; *gnomon* or *gnomon*, *heinous*, *anle* p. 46; *hindrance*, *phrenzy* p. 47; *satchel*, *cobler*, *fratic*, *goshu* p. 48; *halloo*, *verjuice* p. 49; *finesse*, *quadrille* p. 52; *vulture*, *straight* p. 56; *enwrap* p. 58; *cinetart*, *definite* p. 59; *epaulette*, *hypocrite*, *jessamin*, *libertine*, *mackerel*, *paroxisim* p. 60; *almshouse*, *quarantine*, *roqueiaur* p. 61; *achievement* p. 63; *malecontent* p. 64; *catastrophe*, *parishioner*, *apostrophe*, *chuse* p. 67; *vergaloo* p. 70; *conmemmoration* p. 75; *encumber*, *thresh* p. 77; *benumb* p. 78 and 167; *en-sure*, *tailor*, *tipler* p. 81; *abscision* p. 84; *negociate* p. 86; *noviciate* p. 88; *laquey* p. 89; *behaviour*, *connexion* *punctilio* p. 91; *ethural*, *etherial* p. 93; *burthen*, *lether*, *carcase* p. 94; *chotic*, *alchemy*, *chamelon*, *chalibeet* p. 95; *bombasin*, *bucumier* p. 97; *twiggin*, *nozzel*, *biggen* p. 99; *magiug* p. 101; *whurr* p. 102; *balior*, *payor*, *methoize* p. 109; *batteau*, *women* p. 112; *avordupois* p. 113; *bess* (a long) p. 145; *fellon* p. 146; *seignior*, *shoar*, *vise*, *poise* p. 148; *serj*, *stle* p. 150; *molasses*, *cyder* p. 154; *beach* (a tree) p. 155; *reconpence* p. 160, &c.

In addition to the above, there is a number of words which are spelled differently in the different lessons of Webster's spelling-book, and are spelled in one manner only in his dictionary, as, page 18, *dote* 35 *doat*, page 18, *chace* 100 *chase*, page 19, *rinse* 36 *rinse*, page 20, *wo* 44 *woe*, page 21, *brier* 92 *briar*, page 33, *maize* 153 *maiz*, page 40, *streight*, page 56, *straight*, pages 39, 50, 51, *choose*, 67, 68, *chuse*, page 48, *frolle* 107 *folrick*, page 91, *connexion* 96 *connection*, page 91, *seignior* 148 *seignor*, which is, undoubtedly, a very great defect.

I think it will appear evident to every person on the perusal of the preceding comparison, that the orthography of Mr. Webster's spelling-book is very defective, and that Mr. Webster has not paid that attention to the improvement and correction of his book, which he ought, considering the extensive patronage he has received from the American public.

Mr. Webster, in the preface prefixed to his dictionary, published in 1817, observed, "It is very desirable that a uniform orthography may prevail among the citizens of the United States." This can never be the case while they use a variety of English books, which do not agree in spelling;" yet the dictionary, to which these remarks are prefixed, disagrees with his spelling-book, which was revised and published the same year, (1817,) in the *orthography* of all the words noted above; and the same words were also contradictory in the dictionary published by him in 1806, and his spelling-book then in use; and farther, his dictionary published in 1817 differs in orthography from the one he published in 1806, as much as any two English dictionaries extant.

It is certainly of the utmost importance that correct or uniform orthography should exist in the spelling-book and dictionary, for the habits of spelling which we acquire from them remain with us through life. This is so evidently a fact that by observation we shall find that the words, which are spelled in Webster's spelling-book, contrary to Webster's dictionary, or those of Johnson and Walker, are spelled in this erroneous manner, not only in most of the newspapers of the day, but in many of the writings of our most distinguished scholars and statesmen, who obtained their first knowledge of these words from Mr. Webster's book.

I shall now give an exposition of the contradictory orthography of the two editions of his dictionary, published in 1806 and 1817; but as the limits of this review will not permit me to show all of this class, I shall confine the exposition principally to the words which are contained in his spelling-book, for the two following reasons: First; many of these words were spelled in his dictionary (of 1806) as they were in the spelling-book, differently from the dictionary published in 1817, and the others agreeably to it; so that in his dictionary published in 1817, these words which agreed with his spelling-book, in his dictionary (1806) are changed, and disagree with it; and those which disagreed with his spelling-book, in his dictionary (1806) are also changed, and agree with it, while the orthography of his spelling-book has remained the same, during the counter-revolution of it in his two dictionaries alluded to. Secondly; some of these words agree with Walker's orthography in Webster's dictionary published in 1806, and others with that of 1817. In almost every case, in which he disagrees in his spelling-book with his dictionaries, and agrees with Dilworth's spelling-book, and in which he disagrees in his dictionary, 1817, with that of 1806, he agrees with Walker: whose orthography and pronunciation he has treated with contempt whenever he has spoken of them! (See the preface to his dictionary, published in 1806, page 11; and his appeal "To the publick," published at New Haven, March, 1826.)

The following words form a part of this class; the first spelling of the word is agreeably to the edition of the dictionary, 1806; and the latter, that of 1817: *abatable*, *abatable*; *abridement*, *abridgement*; *acknowledgment*, *acknowledgement*; *addicamp*, *aldecamp*; *allege*, *allegable*, *alleged*, *alledge*, *alledgeable*, *alleged*; *opposit*, *oppositly*, *appositness*, *apposit*, *appositly*, *appositness*; *a-signer*, *assignor*; *blamable*, *blamableness*, *blamably*, *blameable*, *blameableness*, *blameably*; *brimful*, *brimfull*; *buccaner*, *buccannor*; *callico*, *calico*; *corselet*, *corset*; *crepuscule*, *crepuscle*, (differently pronounced also); *cross-examin*, *cross-examine*; *curvilinear*, *curvilinear*; *determin*, *determine*; *disciplin*, *discipline*; *enrolment*, *enrollment*; *enterprise*, *entreprize*; *envelope*, *envelop*; *examin*, *examine*; *handful*, *handfull*; *havock*, *have*; *headach*, *headache*; *heartach*, *heartache*; *jewellery*, *jewelry*; *medicin*, *medicine*; *opposit*, *opposite*; *perquisit*, *perquisite*; *pneumatics*, *pnumatics*; *prophecy* (noun), *prophecy*; *redout*, *redoutable*, *redoubt*, *redoubtable*; *requisit*, *requisitly*, *requisiteness*, *requisite*, *requisitely*, *requisiteness*; *sepulcher*, *sepulchre*; *tenon*, *tennon*; *unblamable*, *unblameable*; *windlass*, *windlass*; *woollen*, *woolen*; *wooliness*, *woolness*, &c. &c. As the preceding words, when used by Mr. Webster in defining other words in the same dictionary, are spelled as they are where their accent and definition are given, he cannot with propriety denominate them errors of accident, or of the printers: for instance; dictionary 1806, *Argument*, read-on *alleged*; 1817, *reason* *alleged*; 1806, *Canvass*, to *examin*; 1817 to *examine*; 1806, *Consider*, to *examin*, 1817, to *examine*; 1806, *Defective*, *blamable*, 1817, *blameable*; 1806, *Medicate*, to tincture with *medicins*, 1817, to tincture with *medicines*, &c.

I have before referred to Mr. Webster's remarks in the preface to his dictionary, (1806, page 8,) relative to the "palpable absurdities and preposterous anomalies" in other dictionaries: but I presume every candid reader will admit, after having examined the following exposition, and what has already been shown of his orthography, that the preceding very mild remark is as justly applicable to Mr. Webster's orthography, as to that of any other author: As, in his dictionary (1806) he omitted the final *e* in the terminations *ine* and *ite* unaccented; thus, in *doctrin*, *determin*, *medicin*, *quarantin*, *jessamin*, *libertin*, *examin*, *deposit*, *hypocrit*, *opposit*, *opposit*, *reposit*, *requisit*, *perquisit*; and retained it in the same termination in *exquisite*, *favorite*, and *infinite*: And in his dictionary (1817) he has retained the *e* in the last three noted above, and inserted it in *doctrin*, *determine*, *medicine*, *examine*, *appo-*

turky with *y* only *l* cloke with *oke*, and oak and soak with *oa*! tranquility with *ll*, and Intranquility with one *l*! and in his dictionary (1817) he has appositive and requisite with final *e*, and pre-requisite and inappositive without it! abateable with *e* after *t*, and debatable without it! &c. and yet in all of the above cases, in which Mr. Webster's orthography is neither consistent nor uniform, Johnson and Walker observe both consistency and uniformity.

In view of the expositions I have made, I presume every person will perfectly agree with Mr. Webster in his statement in the preface to his dictionary, that "the more books are made, the more the honest inquirer will be perplexed and confounded with discordant principles;" when he has published two dictionaries which do not agree with each other, and both disagree with his spelling-book!

### PRONUNCIATION.

I shall now take notice of Mr. Webster's "ANALYSIS OF SOUNDS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE," prefixed to his spelling-book; and shall point out what I consider defective in this "Analysis."

Mr. Webster has, in his Analysis, given a very useful explanation of the words LANGUAGE; has given very explicit definitions of an *articulate sound*, a *vowel*, a *consonant*, and of a *diphthong*; yet none of these were taken notice of by Mr. Dilworth, except the *vowel* and *consonant*.

Mr. Dilworth, in noting the *vowel* sounds, has given long (a) as in cape, short (a) as in cap, broad (a) as in hail; but not the sound of a in what, &c.; long (e) as in mete, short (e) as in met, long (i) as in time, short (i) as in tin; long (o) as in note, short (o) as in lot; but not the sound of o in move, &c.; long (u) as in tune, short (u) as in tun; but not the sound of u in bush, &c.; all of these evident defects Mr. Webster corrected. In noting the sounds of the consonants, Mr. Dilworth was equally defective; for instance, he has not noted that *c* has the sound of *ch*; that *t* is a consonant in many words, as in bullion, &c.; that *s* has the sound of *sh*, or *zh*; or that *x* has the sound of *gz* in many words. These defects are also in part corrected by Mr. Webster.

Mr. Webster has not informed us at all in his Analysis of the sounds of the vowels, that many of the above vowel sounds are represented by different letters, although in his spelling lessons he has figures to represent them; as, long *a* is represented by *a* in there; long *e* by *i* in sidre; short *u* by *e* in her, *i* in third, *o* in worm, &c.: yet Mr. Dilworth took notice of all these in their proper place.

In Mr. Webster's Analysis of the sounds of the consonants, he has told us that some of the consonants are *silent*, yet there are other consonants which are *silent*, respecting the silence of which he has said nothing; again, he has told us that some of the consonants are *never* silent, yet there are others which are never silent also, of which he has said nothing. This I presume will be considered a very great defect; for the scholar would suppose, (and reasonably,) that as he has spoken of the silence of some of the consonants, he had noted all which are *silent* in his spelling lessons; yet this is not the case.

He says "B has but one sound, as in bite." He has not told us that it is silent before *t* in the same syllable, as in debtor, page 47, subtitle, page 43; after *m* in the same syllable in many words, as in limb, jamb, dumb, &c. page 36, of that it is ever silent. "C is always sounded like *k* or *s*-like *k* before *a*, *o*, and *u*-and like *s* before *e*, *i*, and *y*." Here we are told that *c* is always sounded like *k* or *s*, but he has not informed us which of these sounds *c* has before *t* and *r*. If "*c* is always sounded like *k* or *s*," how would Mr. Webster pronounce sacrifice, suffice, and discern, with their derivatives? Certainly sacrifice, suffice, discern; but he has not pronounced them at all, either in his spelling-book or dictionary. Again, in speaking of *C*, he says, "When followed by *i* or *e* before a vowel, the syllable slides into the sound of *sh*; as in ceteous, gracious, social, which are pronounced ceteasous, grasheous, sohshal." Now, I would ask whether the syllable has the sound of *sh* in these words, or has *c* or *ci* this sound? To this question we shall find an answer in his examples over Table 34, where he says, "Words in which *cie*, *sie*, and *tie*, are pronounced *she*; *tia* and *cia*, *sha*, &c." Here he does not say that the whole syllable, *ci*ent, *si*ent, *ti*al, *ti*ate, *ci*al, or *ci*ate, slides into the sound of *sh*; He says, "At the end of words it (*e*) is always hard like *k*, as in public." But he has not informed us whether it should be sounded like *k* or *s* at the end of a syllable, as *varine*, *faccid*, *siccity*, &c. He has not told us that *c* is silent in czar, p. 38, in vietuals, p. 48, in indiet, p. 52, &c. or that it is ever silent. "D has only one sound, as in dress, hold." As Mr. Webster has not given any rule for the pronunciation of the termination *ed*, we must not, agreeably to the above rule, ever pronounce *d* like *t* in this termination, as in *tach-ed*, *pass-ed*, *face-ed*, &c. &c. not at *tatsh*, *past*, *faste*, &c. He has not told us that *d* is silent in the first syllable of *stadholder*, which he has pronounced *ed*, &c. or that it is ever silent. "F has its own proper sound, as in life, fever, except in *of*, page 61, in *wednesday*, &c." This letter is not silent in his spelling lessons, yet he has not stated it. "G before *a*, *o*, and *u*, has its hard sound, as in gave, go gun. Before *e*, *i*, and *y*, it has the same hard sound in some words, and in others the sound of *j*." But he has not informed us whether *g* should have the sound of *j* before *t* and *r*, or its hard sound, as in glove, grain, &c. He has not told us that *g* is silent before *o* in the same syllable, as in sovereignty, p. 49, in arraign, and assist, p. 51, in benign, conliden, design, &c. p. 52, or that *g* is ever silent. In speaking of *H* he says, "It can hardly be said to have any sound, but it denotes an aspirate, or impulse of breath, which modifies the sound of the following vowel, as in heart, heaven." He has not told us that *h* is silent after *r*, as in *ria* mb, p. 40, &c. "J is the mark of a compound sound, or union of sounds, which may be represented by *sch*, or the soft *g*, as in jelly." J is never silent, yet he has not stated it. "K has but one sound, as in king; and before *n* it is always silent, as in know." Thus we see that on the same principle that *k* is silent before *n*, *g* is silent; yet Mr. Webster noted one and not the other. "L has but one sound, as in lame. It is silent before *k*, as in walk." L is also silent after *n*, in half and calf, p. 39, and before *r* in cove, halve, &c. before *n* in bain, calm, &c. p. 37, before *d* in cold, would, &c. p. 39; yet Mr. Webster has not noted one of these. "M has but one sound, as in man; and is never silent." "N has but one sound, as in not, and is silent after *m*, as in lyanu." Agreeably to this rule we must pronounce thank, think, as if written than-k, thin-k, &c. instead of sounding the *n* like *ng*, as if written than-kg, thin-kg, &c. This latter pronunciation is the general and natural sound of the letter *n* when followed by *k*, or its representatives, hard *c*, *g*, or *z*, in an accented syllable; and I doubt not at all that Mr. Webster himself, in pronouncing the words of this class, gives *n* the latter pronunciation. Mr. Webster has indirectly admitted this sound of *n* in the pronunciation of the 12 words at the close of Table 40, over which he says, "the following are pronounced as though they were written with double *n*." On examination we shall find that this double *n* is produced by the combination of the letters *n* and *g*, *a* being in an accented syllable followed by *g* hard, it has the sound of *ng*; and *g* never having this double sound when written singly, except when preceded by *n* in an accented syllable, most clearly proves that the first sound of *g* is produced by the *n*; consequently the words in which *n* is in an accented syllable followed by the letter *k*, and its representatives, (which are guttural sounds as well as hard *g*) should be classed as much as the 12 words at the close of Table 40, and for the same reason. He has not told us that *n* is also silent after *t* at the end of a word, as kiln, p. 116, brick kiln, p. 36, &c., neither has he told us in what situation *n* is silent after *m*, whether at the end or middle of a word, or in both situations. This distinction is of much importance: for, although *n* is silent after *m* at the end of the words autumn, condemn, &c. it is not silent after *m* in the middle of the words autumnal, condemnation, &c.

"P has one uniform sound, as in pit." He has not told us that *p* is silent before *s* at the beginning of a word, as in psalm, p. 37, between *m* and *t*, as in *tmpter*, p. 48, in *prescription*, *redemption*, &c. p. 74, before *n* in *pneumatic*, p. 63, &c. or that it is ever silent. "Q has the power of *k*, and is always followed by *u* as in question." This letter is never silent, yet he has not stated it. "R has one sound only as in *barri*." This letter is not silent in his spelling lessons, yet he has not stated it. "S has the sound of *c*, as in *so*; or *z*, as in *rose*." As *c* has two sounds, that of *k* and of *s*, how are we to know from the above rule, which sound of *c* should have in this word? In speaking of *S* he says, "when followed by *i* preceding a vowel the syllable has the sound of *sh* as in *mission*;" and *zh* as in *osier*." The syllable—is it not surprising that Mr. Webster should state that the syllable, instead of *s* or *st*, has the sound of *sh* or *zh*? And when tender, it still more surprising is, that he has stated on the first page of his analysis, that "there is also a distinct sound expressed by *uz* as in *long*; and another by *sz* or *z*, as in *fusion*, *azure*, which sound might be represented by *zh*." Here he states that the distinct sound of *zh* is represented by *s*, instead of a *whole syllable*. Again, he says, Table 33, "in the following words *sz* sound like *zh*;" and in this table we find *osier* and *fusion*, the same words given in the preceding examples. Thus, we have in Mr. Webster's spelling-book, three rules relative to the sound of *zh*, not two of which agree! First, the sound of *zh* is expressed by *s*, in *fusion*; secondly, the syllable has the sound of *zh*; thirdly, *sz* have the sound of *zh*? And further, he has not informed us when we must pronounce *s* like *sh*, or when like *zh*; nor has he told the reason for pronouncing *s* like *sh* in *mission*, and like *zh* in *osier*; that *s* should be sounded like *sh* when followed by *i* and a vowel, and is preceded by a consonant, and is like *zh* when followed as above, and preceded by a vowel; neither has he told us that *s* even has the sound of *zh* when followed by *u*, although in his table 33, over which he has, "in the following words, *sz* sound like *zh*." He has inserted six words in which *s* is followed by *u*! Again, he has not told us that *c*

ever has the sound of *sh*, when followed by long *u* and preceded by the accent, as in *conure*, *sensui*, &c. He has not told us that *s* is silent in *isle*, *island*, *viscount*, &c. 112, or that it is ever silent. "T has its propr sound, as in turn, at the beginning of words and end of syllables. In all the terminations in *tion*, and *tial*, *ti* have the sound of *sh*, as in nation, nuptial; except when preceded by *s* or *x*, in which case they have the sound of *ch*, as in question, mixtion." Thus we shall find, on examination, that in giving the sounds of *sh*, which are expressed by *c*, *s*, and *t*, he has given the rule in different terms: as, in speaking of *c*, the syllable slides into the sound of *sh*, of *t*, the syllable has the sound of *sh*, and here of *t*, he says, *ti* have the sound of *sh*; and farther, in noting these sounds he has not told the reason why *c*, *s*, and *t*, have the sound of *sh*; which is, that they are followed by a diphthong and preceded by the accent. He has not told us that *t* is silent in *chestnut* and *glister*, p. 47, in *mortgage*, p. 48, in *ectat*, p. 52, &c. or that it is ever silent. "F has uniformly one sound, as in voice, live, and is never silent." How then shall we pronounce *sepmight*, p. 48, in which *v* is in italics, and consequently silent, agreeably to Mr. Webster's rules relative to italic letters in his spelling lessons? "W has the power of a vowel, as in dwell; or a consonant, as in well, will." He has not told us that it is silent before *r*, as in wry and wright, p. 34, in wrap, wrack, wrench, p. 36, &c. &c. or that it is ever silent.

"X has the sound of *ks* as in wax; or of *gz*, as in exist, and in other words, when followed by an accented syllable beginning with a vowel. In the beginning of Greek names, it has the sound of *z*, as in Xerxes, Xenophon." This is the only instance in Mr. Webster's Analysis in which he has admitted, either directly or indirectly, that any consonant has its sound varied from being in an accented or unaccented syllable, preceded or followed by a vowel! I cannot conceive why Mr. Webster has omitted to take notice of the influence of accent when treating of the different sounds of the other consonants; for, the same principle of analogy which would lead him to note the accent when treating of *x*, would have dictated to him the propriety of taking account when treating of the sound of *sh*, represented by *c*, *s*, or *t*, as in gracious, pension, action; of *ish* represented by *t*, as in question, &c.; or of *zh*, represented by *s*, as in vision, &c. If, agreeably to the above rule, *x* has the "sound of *gz*, as in exist, and in other words, when followed by an accented syllable beginning with a vowel," in all cases (and Mr. Webster has not noted any exceptions,) how shall we pronounce doxology, proximity, fixation, relaxation, taxation, vexation, &c.? Certainly; doc-zology, pro-zimity, fig-zation, relag-zation, tag-zation, veg-zation, &c.: as "z is followed by an accented syllable beginning with a vowel" in these words. Again, Mr. Webster has not, in the preceding rule, told us that *x* should have the sound of *gz* when followed by an accented syllable beginning with *h*, although he has inserted the words *exhaust* and *exhort*, in table 31, over which he has, "In the following, with their compounds and derivatives, *x* is pronounced like *gz*." "Z has its own sound usually, as in zeal, freeze." Mr. Webster has not informed us that *z* ever has the sound of *zh*; but he has inserted the words *glazier*, *seizure*, and *azure*, in table 33, over which he has, "In the following words, *z* sound like *zh*!" Although there is no *z* in the above words, yet as there is the sound of *zh* in every other word in this table, (33,) we may reasonably suppose that Mr. Webster intended the *z* to be sounded like *zh*, notwithstanding he has not informed us in table 33, or when treating of the letter *z*, that it ever has this sound. "Ch have the sound of *ish* in words of English origin, as in chip—in some words of French origin they have the sound of *sh*, as in machine—and in some words of Greek origin, the sound of *k*, as in chorus." He has not told us that *ch* is silent in *schism*, p. 36, *yacht*, p. 38, or that it is ever silent. "Gh have the sound of *f*, as in laugh, or are silent, as in light." He has not told us that *gh* is pronounced like *k*, in hough, lough, shough, (see Webster's Dictionary): that the *h* only is silent in some words, as in ghost, p. 55, gherkin, p. 29. "Ph have the sound of *f*, as in philosophy; except in Stephen, where it has the sound of *v*." He has not told us that *ph* is silent in phthisis, p. 47, or that it is ever silent. "Sh has one sound only, as in shell; but its use is often supplied by *ti*, *ci*, and *ce*, before a vowel, as in motion, gracious, cetaceous." Here he has stated that the use of *sh* is often supplied by *ti*, *ci*, and *ce*, but has omitted to mention *si* also. Again, in the above rule, he says that the use of *sh* is often supplied by *ci* and *ce*; but in treating of the letter *c*, he states that the syllable slides into the sound of *sh*. "Th has two sounds, aspirate and vocal—aspirate, as in think, bath—vocal, as in those, that, bathe." He has not told us that *h*, in this combination, is silent in asthma, p. 46, in isthmus and phthisis, p. 47, in thyma, &c.: or that it is ever silent. "Schefore a, o, u and r, are pronounced like *sk*, as in scale, scoff, sculpture, scribble before *e*, *i*, *y*, like soft *c*, or *s*, as in scene, science, Scythian." He has not told us that *sch* has the sound of *sh*, as in conscience, conscious, &c.; yet he has these words in table 34, in which *c*, *s*, and *t* have the sound of *sh*. After these rules, Mr. Webster has given concise explanations of the "Formation of Words and Sentences," and "Of Accent, Emphasis and Cadence." Then follows his "Key to the following Work," in which he has given examples of the different vowel sounds, as represented by figures placed over the vowels of the accented syllables in his spelling lessons, the representation of which he has explained in his "Explanation of the Key." A figure stands as the invariable representative of a certain sound. The figure 1 represents the long sound of the letters, *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u*, or *ew*, and *y*; number 2 the short sound of the same characters; number 3 marks the sound of broad *a*, as in *hall*; number 4 represents the sound of *a* in *father*; number 5 represents the short sound of broad *a* as in *not*, *what*; number 6 represents the sound of *o* in *more*, commonly expressed by *oo*; number 7 represents the short sound of *oo* in *root*, *bison*; number 8 represents the sound of *u* short, made by *e*, *i* and *o*, as in *her*, *bird*, *come*, pronounced *hur*, *bird*, *cam*; number 9 represents the first sound of *o*, made by *e*, as in *there*, *rein*, pronounced *thare*, *vane*; number 10 represents the French sound of *i*, which is the same as *e* long. This representation of the vowel sounds by figures was, unquestionably, a great improvement upon Mr. Dilworth's Spelling-book, in which, as was stated on page 33, the vowel sounds were not classed or noted. In the application of these figures in the various spelling lessons, the vowels are classed whose sounds are of the same quantity: as long *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, &c. under number 1; short *a*, *e*, *i*, &c. under number 2; or those whose sounds are similar, as *her*, *bird*, *come*, &c. under 8, in which the vowels *e*, *i*, and *o* represent the sound of short *u*, &c. &c.: and a figure placed over the first vowel, marks the sound of the vowel in all that follow in that column, until contradicted by another figure." As Mr. Webster has given a "Key to the following Work," and has stated that "a figure stands as the invariable representative of a certain sound," we might reasonably suppose that his key would be sufficiently extensive to represent all the vowel sounds made by different letters, acknowledged by him in his spelling lessons; and that no figure should be placed over a vowel in his lessons which is not represented in his key, or in the explanation of its use and application, or which does not correspond with its representation in the key: yet his key is defective in both of the above particulars. For instance, on page 39, he has the following note: "Under this figure, (reference to figure 2) in the words *skirt*, &c. *i* has the second sound of *e*." On this page (39) are the words *skirt*, *dirge*, *virge*, *firm*, *stirp*, *chirp*, *quirk* and *tir*, p. 41, *birth*, *girth*, *mirth*, &c. p. 42, *virtue*, page 32, *affirm*, p. 64, *firmament*, &c. with *i* under figure 2, and if we follow Mr. Webster's rule, that "a figure stands as the invariable representative of a certain sound," the *i* must, at least in the above words not on page 39, have its short sound as in *pin*, agreeably to his key! If he should say that the note on page 39, was intended to apply to all of the words in which *i* is under 2, near the close of the different spelling lessons, then I would inquire, whether he intended to give *i* the sound of second *e*, in the word *principle*, p. 61, and in *miracle*, p. 62, which are in the same predicament with the words above noted; if he did not intend that sound, then who can avoid admitting the imperfection of Mr. Webster's key, or its improper application? It is also quite singular that he has given this "sound of second *e*" to many words, and the sound of *u* short to others of like formation, both of which should evidently be sounded alike; as p. 39, *virge*, (*verge*), p. 49, *virgin* (*virgin*), p. 40 and 99, *girt* (*gurt*), p. 41, *girth* (*gerth*) &c. Mr. Webster has, at or near the close of nearly all of his spelling lessons, given a class of words in which *c* has its short sound, and over which is placed number 2. If he intended to class those words only, in which *c* is immediately followed by *r* and another consonant in an accented syllable, for the purpose of pointing out in a particular manner the correct pronunciation of *c* in this situation, as it was formerly sounded like *ct* in these words; as *mercy* (*marcy*), *perfect* (*parfect*), *merchant* (*marchant*) &c. &c.: why did he insert words in these classes in which *c* is not followed by *r* in an accented syllable, as *venom*, p. 23, *intend*, p. 25, *regulate*, p. 27, *overwhelming*, p. 32, *efficinacy*, *inveitrey*, *intemperately*, p. 69? If he did not intend to note these words in a particular manner, as stated above, then these words above referred to, should be in the first class of words, in each lesson, which are placed under figure 2; in either case, there is an evident defect in the application of the figure, or in the classification of the words. He says, "The number 1 represents the long sound of the letters *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u*, or *ew*, and *y*; number 2 the short sound of the same characters;" yet he has not given any example in his key in which *ew* or *o* is placed under figure 2; neither is *ew* under 2 in any instance in his spelling lessons, nor *o* but in the two words *doty*, p. 41, and *acknowledge*, p. 63! He has given the word *tun* in his key, to represent the sound of *u* short with figure 2 over it; and on page 40 he has spelled it *ton* with figure 8 over it; and it is spelled *tun* in his dictionary published in 1806 and 1817. He says, "number 6 represents the sound of *o* in *move*," and on p. 63, he has *manuever* with *u* under 6, although he has no example in his key to show that *u* ever has this sound. He says, "number 8 represents the sound of *u* short made by *e*, *i*, and *o*," yet he has *run*, p. 39, and *dance*, p. 40, with the *u* under 8, instead of placing them under 2!

Great perplexity and embarrassment frequently arise from the manner that these figures are placed over the



vowels, being on the same type with the letter, it is quite difficult for the scholar to determine which figure is on the vowel before him; and when the figure 1 is placed over *i* it is particularly perplexing to a young scholar. The figures ought, undoubtedly, to be on a separate type from the letter, whenever the sounds of the vowels change, that they may be at once distinguished both by teacher and scholar.

The following rule of Mr. Webster's Key, which is to denote the silent letters in the spelling lessons by printing them in italic characters, was also a very great improvement. [This improvement, however, was, I believe, original in Mr. Perry's spelling book.] "Silent letters are printed in italic characters: thus, in *beal*, *goal*, *build*, *people*, *fight*, the italic letters have no sound." Mr. Webster has omitted to note the silence of many letters in his spelling lessons, although he has noted the silence of others which are evidently of the same class, as will be fully shown. "S when printed in italic, is not silent; but pronounced like *z* as in *devisé*, pronounced *devisé*." If *s* should be pronounced like *z*, when printed in italic, why is it italic in table thirty-three, in which it is sounded like *zh*? There is evidently a contradiction between the rule quoted above, and the rule and examples placed over the table thirty-three; for if we follow the above rule, we must pronounce the *s* like *z* in table 33, as *mez-ur*, *plez-ur*, *ra-zur*, &c. &c.; and if the rule over the table, *mez-h-ur*, *plezh-ur*, *ra-zhur*, &c. &c. Again, if *s* should be pronounced like *z* when in italic, how shall we pronounce Rhode Island, p. 121; Islesburg, p. 130; Carlisle, p. 138; Long Island, p. 139; Presque Isle, p. 140, in which the *s* is in italic? The rules respecting *ch* and *th* as it regards their classification, were treated of on page 32.

With regard to what I shall deem *contradictory* pronunciation in this treatise, I will observe, that I apply it to those cases where Mr. Webster has given a vowel or consonant a particular sound in a certain situation, and has given the same vowel or consonant a different sound in a similar situation; or where he has a vowel or consonant silent in a certain situation, and not silent in a similar one. For instance, he has *a*, in the termination *ant*, under figure 2, short *a* in *plant*, p. 19; and under 4, flat *a*, in the same termination, in *pant*, *grant*, &c. p. 39; *o* under 5, broad *a* short, in *drossy*, p. 23; and under 3, broad *a* long, in the same syllable *drossy*, p. 27; *a* under 2, short *a*, in the termination *ance*, in *arrange* and *derange*, p. 21; and under 1, long *a*, in the same termination in *change* and *strange*, p. 33; *a* under 2, short *a* in the termination *ance*, in *finance*, p. 24; and *romance*, p. 25; and under 4, flat *a*, in the same termination in *dance*, *prance*, &c. p. 38; and *advance*, p. 52; he has pronounced *s* like *z*, in the prefix *dis*, in *disarm*, p. 25; but has pronounced the *s* hissing, as in *sin*, in *down*, p. 52; although it should be sounded like *z*, as in *disarm*, being followed by an accented syllable beginning with a vowel in both cases. He has divided *pr* in *prin-cip-al*, p. 26, and *prin-cip-al*, p. 117; *o* under 5, broad *a* short, in *immortal*, p. 28; and under 3, broad *a* long, in *mortal*, p. 48; *e* like *z* in *dissolvent*, p. 23; and hissing in *indissoluble*, p. 72; he has noted *p* as silent between *m* and *t*, and has it italic in *tempter*, p. 48, *assumption*, *consumption*, *pre-emption*, *redemption*, p. 71, *exempt*, p. 103; but has sounded the *p* in the same situation, and has it in roman in *sumptuary*, *peremptory*, p. 29, *attempt*, *contempt*, p. 52; *presumptive*, p. 63; *sumptuously*, p. 65; *contemptible*, p. 67; *o* under 3, broad *a* long, in *farm*, *turn*, *cord*, p. 37; and under 5, broad *a* short in the same syllables, in *per-form-ance*, *re-cord-er*, *mis-for-tune*, p. 63; *for-mid-a-ble*, p. 66; *u-ni-form-i-ty*, p. 72; and farther, it is impossible to give *o* the sound of broad *a* short, as in what, as represented by figure 5, in these words, as the *o* is followed by *r* and another consonant, and necessarily has the sound of broad *a* long, as in *fall*; the same may be observed with regard to *o*, which he has under figure 5, in *abhor*, p. 25; *ornament*, p. 27; *abortive*, *indorsement*, *importance*, p. 63; *orchester*, p. 93; whereas it should be under 3, broad *a* long, in all of the above words, being followed by *r* single, or by *r* and another consonant, as in *border*, *corner*, *mortal*, &c. p. 48; *adorn*, *suborn*, &c. p. 32; *deformity*, *subordinate*, &c. p. 67; *a* in *wasp* and *want*, under 3, broad *a* long, p. 37, and under 5, broad *a* short, in *wash*, *wear*, and *wand*, p. 28; *o* in *dross*, *loss*, &c. under 3, p. 37; and in *fosse*, under 5, p. 38; *a* under 5, broad *a* short, in *taut*, p. 29; and under 3, broad *a* long, in the same syllable in *fault-y*, p. 43; *oo* under 7, in *loof*, p. 29; *out* under 6, in *loof*, p. 52. The evident contradiction in the pronunciation of words in which *i* is followed by *r* single, or by *r* and another consonant, was taken notice of on page 34; as, *virge*, (verge,) *i* like *e* short, p. 29; *virgin*, (vurgin,) *i* like *u* short, p. 49, &c. He has *e* and *y* both in roman in the termination *cy* in *ablexy*, p. 46; and the *i* in italic and the *y* only in *roum*, in the same termination, in *chimney*, p. 47; he has the *e* and *h* both silent in *asthma*, p. 45; but the *h* only is silent in *isthmus*, p. 47; he has *t* silent when preceded by *s* and followed by *en*, in *chasten* and *elisten*, p. 47; and has sounded it in *christen*, p. 55, in which it is preceded by *s* and followed by *en*, as in the two words above referred to. On p. 47 is *franchise*, with the *s* hissing and the *e* in italic, making the *z* short; p. 63, *disfranchise*, with the *s* in italic, sounded like *z*, and the *e* in roman, making the *z* long; p. 68, *disfranchisement* with the *s* italic, sounded like *z*, and the *e* in italic also, making the *z* short, so that the syllable *chise*, being immediately preceded by the accent, is pronounced three different ways in the three words above noted; thus, *tsis*, *tsaize*, and *tsaizé*. Page 17, *e* in italic and *o* roman in *luncheon*, and same page, *e* in roman and *o* in italic in *punchion*, and p. 48, *truncheon*, pronounced *lunchun*, *punchun*, and *trunchun*. Page 48, *o* in fortune, under 3, broad *a* long, and *e* in roman, making the *u* long; and p. 63, *o* in misfortune, under 5, broad *a* short, and the *e* italic, making the *u* short, thus, *law-tune* and *mis-for-tun*. Page 49, *a* under 5, in *knowledge*, and under 2 in the same syllable, in *acknowledge*, p. 63; p. 52, the final *e* in *roman* in *approve* and above, and italic in *disapprove* and below; over Table 30, he has given whole syllables for examples when speaking of the sound of *sh* or *zh*, as *tion*, *tion*, *cion*, *ctid*, &c.; and over Table 31, he has given parts of syllables for examples, as *ete*, *sie*, *ite*, &c.; p. 91, the *s* is not italic in *billiards* and *billions*, as it should be agreeably to his rule respecting *e*, for it is impossible to pronounce these words unless we pronounce the *s* like *z*. The contradiction in his pronunciation of *z* like *ts* in *anxious*, and not in *Boxton*, *Luxton*, &c. p. 91, was taken notice of on page 30. On p. 95, *chorl* is under 5, broad *a* short, and on p. 37, *corl* is under 3, broad *a* long, and on p. 145, he has given them as being pronounced alike, making figures 3 and 5 synonymous in their representation. Page 97, *e* roman in *machine*, and italic in *machin-ry*; p. 103, *exhaust* and *exhort*, in the former of which *h* is sounded, and in the latter it is silent, although *h* commences an accented syllable, and is immediately preceded by *z* in both words. Thus I have given a list of words which I conceive to be pronounced in a contradictory manner in Mr. Webster's spelling lessons. As I intend to compare the principles of pronunciation of Mr. Webster with those of Mr. Webster, on some future occasion, I shall not bring the propriety of business of Mr. Webster's principles into question until that time.

As Mr. Webster has given the pronunciation of *fric* words (except their accentuation) in his dictionary (1817), we can not detect many contradictions in pronunciation in his dictionary, and spelling-book; but from the few which he has pronounced, I presume, had he given the pronunciation in his dictionary of all the words contained in his spelling-book, there would have been the same happy consistency and uniformity between the dictionary and spelling-book in their pronunciation, that there is in their orthography, which was ext. cited on page 32. For instance; *romance* is accented on the second syllable, and on the *first* in the dictionary; *slimony*, *i* long, *slim-ony*, *i* short, in the dictionary; p. 33, *heard*, *e* silent and *a* long, and *a* silent and *e* long in his dictionary; p. 37, *wasp*, broad *a* long, and broad *a* short in the dictionary; p. 46, *asthma*, *t* silent in the spelling-book, and sounded in his dictionary; *e* italic in *brimstone*, making the *o* short, and roman in the dictionary, making the *o* long; p. 47, *bustle* pronounced *bus-t*, *t* sounded, and in his dictionary pronounced *bus-t*, *t* silent; p. 49, *sovereign* pronounced *su-ver-en*, two syllables, and *su-ver-en*, three syllables, in his dictionary; p. 52, *upright* and *seaman* accented on the second syllable, and on the *first* in the dictionary; p. 59, *herald* divided *he-rald*, *u* silent in his dictionary; *distranchise*, *e* short, in his dictionary; p. 63, *apprais*, *r* accented, *a* (second syllable) accented in his dictionary; *distranchise*, *e* roman, making the *i* long, *e* italic, making the *i* short, dictionary; p. 66, *comparable*, accented on the third syllable, and on the *first* in the dictionary; p. 71, *monosyllable* and polysyllable, accented on the third syllable, and on the *first* in the dictionary; p. 93, *apothesis*, accented on the third syllable, and on the *first* in the dictionary; p. 95, *te-trach*, *e* long, and *te-trach*, *e* short, in the dictionary; p. 97, *acquire* accented on the second syllable, and on the *first* in the dictionary; p. 101, *pecuniary*, *a* short, and *a* long, dictionary; p. 102, *adagio*, *a* short, (second syllable), and *a* long, dictionary; p. 108, *decanor* and *balor* accented on the second syllable, and on the *first* in his dictionary, &c. &c.; and what is quite surprising (not to say absurd) is, that in nearly every instance in which he has accented or pronounced a word differently in his dictionary from his spelling-book, he agrees with Walker's pronunciation, whose principles he has combined in a very zealous and patriotic manner.

When this review was published in the Albany Argus, for the purpose of showing the extreme impropriety and absurdity which exist in the use of these two books in the same school, which is usual in many parts of the United States, the words in which Mr. Webster differs from Mr. Walker, agreeably to the principles of Mr. Webster's old spelling-book, amount to at least five thousand! and if we include their derivatives, probably eight thousand! so that it is not at all surprising that there is so much contradictory pronunciation among school teachers, and so little uniformity in pronunciation with public speakers, when (as it has been fully shown) Mr. Webster's pronunciation is contradictory both in his own spelling-book and school dictionary; and disagrees in his spelling-book to a very great extent with Walker's, which is generally used in the same schools with it, where the

orthography and pronunciation are taught! so prominent are these differences in pronunciation between Webster's spelling-book and Walker's dictionary, that on opening this spelling-book at one place (pages 38 and 39) we shall perceive at *one view* no less than *eighty-two* variations from Walker's dictionary! Hence the inpropriety of using these two books in the same school!

Having pointed out what I considered *defective* or *contradictory* in Mr. Webster's spelling-book, I shall now conclude my remarks on that book by taking notice of some declarations made by Mr. Webster relative to his spelling-book, in his APPEAL "TO THE PUBLICK," published at New-Haven, March, 1826.

From a review of his appeal, above alluded to, I was fully convinced that Mr. Webster was not aware of the *defects* and *contradictions* contained in his spelling-book and school dictionary; and I have therefore been more particular in giving *proof* of what I have stated. In speaking of his spelling-book, he observes, "my tables are so constructed, and so nearly complete, that they *cannot* be improved." Again, he says, in speaking of the attempts to rival his book: "in order to accomplish their object, it has been found expedient to depreciate my work, and to charge me with *innovation*, and with introducing a *system of orthography and pronunciation in many respects vague and pedantic*. Surely, if this is true, if my book is really a bad one, I have been very much deceived; and I have done not only an injury, but great and extensive injury to my country." In the preceding review I have shown that his book "is really a bad one," not only in the *contradictory* and *defective* manner in which his spelling-lessons are classed and arranged, [see pages 30, 31] but in the *inconsistent* and *defective* innovations in orthography adopted by him, which he did not, or could not render *consistent* or *uniform* throughout the language! [See pages 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.]

To my remarks on his spelling-book, Mr. Webster attempted an answer in the *Arcus* of the 12th Dec. 1827, but instead of *disproving* my assertions, or endeavouring to offer any remarks in *justification* of having *continued* these *errors*, *defects*, and *inconsistencies* in his spelling-book for more than *forty years*, many of which are at variance with his school dictionary, [see pages 19, 32] he has admitted the *truth* of my assertions, in the following language: "That there are some errors, defects, and inconsistencies in the work, is not to be wondered at; for this is precisely the fact with every English dictionary which I have yet seen;" and he indulges in a *decisive condemnation* of every *English* dictionary now in existence, for the purpose of *justifying* the errors of his spelling-book! Mr. Webster, in speaking of the defects of Mr. Johnson's dictionary, observed in the preface to his dictionary, published in 1806, page 19, that "To assign the causes of these defects is by no means difficult. We are told in the accounts of Johnson's life that he was almost always depressed by disease and poverty; that he was naturally indolent, and seldom wrote until he was urged by want, or the necessity of fulfilling his engagements with his bookseller. Hence it happened that he often received the money for his writings before his manuscripts were prepared. Then, when called upon for copy, he was compelled to prepare his manuscripts in haste; and it may be reasonably supposed that in some instances they were sent to the press in an unfinished state. These facts, while they may account for, by no means excuse the multitude of errors in his dictionary." But Mr. Webster cannot, with any degree of propriety or consistency, assert that *poverty* is the cause of the errors in his spelling-book or school dictionary; for, in his appeal, after having stated that his book had encountered prepossession and prejudice with success, he observed that, "if we can judge from the numbers sold; not less than *seven millions* of copies; more than half, and probably two thirds of all the inhabitants of the United States have received the rudiments of their education from the use of that book." And even the publishers of Mr. Webster's book also *boast* in their advertisements of the *millions* which have been sold, as though the *quantities* sold would be a sufficient argument to convince the enlightened citizens of the United States that *no improvement* upon Mr. Webster's book can be made, and consequently his book is, and *must* be, the *best*!! Again, Mr. Webster observes, in speaking of his spelling-book, "The profits of this work, though very small, have not only been the principal support of my numerous family, but they have enabled me to accomplish a dictionary of our language, at the expense of *twenty years of labor*, and *thirty thousand dollars in money*." Therefore I can with propriety state that his *poverty* or want of *patronage* caused him to neglect the correction of the *defects* and *errors* pointed out by me in this review. Notwithstanding Mr. Webster's spelling-book has been very extensively patronised, and he has received *thousands of dollars* from the American citizens, yet he has suffered these errors to remain in his book year after year, without correction; [see page 32:] and then he is so *inconsistent* and *ungrateful* as to tell these citizens who have thus *patronised* and *supported* him by making such an extensive use of his spelling-book, that a "species of slavery hangs like a mill-stone about the neck of all literary enterprise in the United States."

What Mr. Webster considers "a species of slavery," is, I suppose, the conduct of many of the respectable citizens in the United States, who have presumed to manifest an attachment to the principles of orthography and orthoepy of Walker's dictionary in preference to those taught by him. Again, he observes in his appeal, "as I have been preparing a dictionary for publication; have for many years been teased with the clamor of Mr. Walker; I have made a visit to England, and partly with a view to ascertain the real state of the language." It is indeed quite surprising that Mr. Webster should have visited England with a view to ascertain the *real state of the language!* by spending a few months there, more particularly as he had previously *condemned*, without reserve, all the *English* dictionaries now in use!! Again, he observes, "I presume, I can select a thousand words, if not double the number, from Walker's dictionary, marked for a pronunciation which no man would venture to use, in any decent society in that country." And yet he has not *condemned* to furnish the citizens of the United States with a *single* example of Mr. Walker's *indecent* pronunciation!! Now, I would inquire of Mr. Webster whether the pronunciation of some words given by him would be thus pronounced: "in any decent society" in England? as *na-tur*, *var-tu*, *in-sure*, *paas*, *paant*, *daans*, *u-fer*, (flat *o*) &c.: instead of *na-tur*, *var-tu*, *in-shure*, *paas*, *paant*, *daant*, *u-fer*, &c. Mr. Webster, for the purpose, no doubt, of overthrowing Mr. Walker's principles of orthography and pronunciation at once, observed in his appeal, that "if the people of this country *would* have an English book to follow, if not better than *English* will answer, I would recommend Jones' dictionary for this purpose. Jones is a later author, who seems to have followed Walker for the express purpose of correcting his errors;—and his work, for the simplicity and consistency of his scheme, is far preferable to any other British publication." It is truly astonishing that Mr. Webster should "recommend Jones' dictionary" to the citizens of the United States, when Jones *disagrees* in orthography with Webster's innovations in every instance, and *agrees* with Walker, whose orthography Mr. Webster has *so strenuously condemned!* as in the retention of the final *k* in *publick*, *musick*, &c.; the retention of the *u* in unaccompanied *our*, as in *accour*, *honour*, &c.; the termination *re* instead of *er*, as in *mitre*, *sceptre*, &c. [See pages 7, 8, 9, and Webster's appeal on this subject:] and even Mr. Johnson published a dictionary in London in 1827, in which he retains this orthography, so much *condemned* by Mr. Webster, and *agrees* with Mr. Walker!! Hence, it must be admitted that Mr. Webster's zeal for something different from *English* led him to adopt *innovations* without regard to their *defects*, *propriety*, *consistency*, or *uniformity*; for he has not carried a *single* innovation through the language, [see pp. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11:] and instead of producing *arguments* to convince the American people of the utility of his innovations in orthography, he has adopted an *easier* method, that of *condemning* every *English* lexicographer, without reserve, who has been so *presumptuous* and *unfortunate* as to *disagree* with his (Webster's) *favorite notions* of innovations in orthography!! Again, it is also quite surprising that Mr. Webster should "recommend" Jones' pronunciation to the American people, when Jones *offers more* from Webster's pronunciation, than he does from Walker's!! As, in scandin *g*, *a* or *au* like broad *a* long when followed by *n* and another consonant, as in *sa*it, *fa*ult, &c.: a long in *angel*, *dan*ger, *dan*ce, &c.: a like *i* short in the termination *age*, as in *cab*bage, &c.; *e* and *o* like *u* short in the termination *ory* and *ery*, as in *goc*ery, *ama*tory, &c.; *o* like *o* in not when followed by *ft*, *se*, or *st*, as in *loft*, *less*, and *lest*, &c.: *i* like *e* short in many words when followed by *n* and another consonant as in *circu*t, *virgin*, *circu*lar, &c.; [see page 34:] *u*, *ue*, *ui*, or *eu*, like *o* when preceded by *r*, as in *br*ute, *br*ut, *tr*ue, *cr*ew, &c.; *i* like *y* in many words, as *to*do, *ge*nus, &c.; *ci* and *ti* like *she* in the termination *ciate* and *tiab*, as in *as*sociate, *ne*gotiate, and in *as*sociation, *ne*gotiation, &c.: *s* like *z* in the prefix *dis* when followed by an accented syllable beginning with a flat consonant; like *sa* when followed by long *u* preceded by the accent, as in *na*ture, *vir*tue, &c.: *t* silent when preceded by *s* and followed by the termination *le* as in *bu*stle, *ca*stle, &c.; and in the *over*turning of a great many words, as *ho*zioru, *con*template, *de*monstrate, *ac*ceptable, &c. &c. in all of which and hundreds of others Jones *disagrees* with Webster; and *agrees* with Walker.

Thus I have given a thorough exposition of what I have considered *defective*, *contradictory*, or *inconsistent*, in Mr. Webster's spelling-book, school dictionary, and in his APPEAL "TO THE PUBLICK," for the purpose of exciting interest and inquiry, and thereby rendering a benefit to my fellow-citizens, by enabling them to determine whether Mr. Webster has paid that attention to the *improvement* and *correction* of his spelling-book, which the extensive patronage he has received from the people of the United States required of him; and whether, in the present state, it should be retained in our schools.

REVIEW  
OF  
WEBSTER'S ELEMENTARY SPELLINGBOOK,  
COMPILED BY AARON ELY.

The Proprietor of the Elementary Spelling-Book has taken much pains to compile, in pamphlet form, an imposing list of recommendations of that work in connexion with those of his Dictionaries. This pamphlet has been widely circulated, and the recommendations are calculated to impress the public mind with the belief that the *Elementary Spelling-Book* is uniform in its orthography, pronunciation, and classification, and for this reason is worthy of being adopted in our schools and academies. Upon what principle these unqualified recommendations of this work have been given, it is difficult to determine; since in all these particulars it is in no way erroneous and defective than the *American Spelling-Book*. I do not intend that this fact shall rest upon bare assertion, but upon proofs, which I challenge Mr. Webster and all his friends to gain say. I am aware that in saying this, I am calling in question the certificates of men of great erudition and practical experience in various departments of literature—men whose literary reputation and public functions present an awful preponderance to my single counterpoise; but I rest secure in the irresistible force of truth, and the sincerity of my convictions, while I hesitate not to say that it would better comport with the principles of justice and the interests of society, or gentlemen to state where in this compilation by Mr. Ely is preferable to other books designed for instruction, than barely to assert it, how imposing soever may be the weight of their names.

If the question were—whether Mr. Webster is entitled to respect for his labours as Lexicographer—there could be no diversity of opinion; but when it is alleged that he has reduced the orthography to uniformity—or even an approximation towards it—or that his Dictionaries are more accurate in this particular than those of Johnson and Walker—or that the *Elementary Spelling-Book* is less *contradictory* in this particular than others, the allegation requires something more than bare assertion—something more than general panegyric to give it currency with the American people.

However laudable may have been the motives of the individuals who have thus lent the influence of their names to give popularity to these works, I fully believe Hazard little in expressing a doubt whether all or any of them have undergone the labour necessary to warrant these, in general, unqualified testimonials, some of which were given in anticipation of the publication to which they refer. Were I not personally acquainted with the fact that in this city meetings of teachers were had for the purpose of securing pledges to support the *Elementary Spelling-Book* and *Duodecim Dictionary* which were then unpublished, that Mr. Webster attended these meetings in person for the purpose of explaining his principles and endorsing his own books—that at one of the meetings a committee previously appointed made a report commending the *Elementary Spelling-Book*, and urging the adoption of that report upon the authority—that one of the committee "had seen the book in manuscript!" that at a subsequent period the most unwarrantable measures were adopted by the friends of Mr. Webster, to procure an endorsement for this compilation by the teachers in this city, which failed except as to a few individuals—and were not personally acquainted with the nameless devices which have been resorted to—for the purpose of forcing these publications upon the community—I might suspect myself guilty of illiberality in expressing this doubt; but possessing the knowledge I do in relation to this matter, and knowing also from experience the time and application requisite to form a correct opinion of their merits—I am irresistibly impelled to the conclusion, that personal friendship has contributed largely to the procuring of these recommendations.

Another part of this pamphlet is worthy of a passing remark. For the purpose of disseminating more widely than could be done through the medium of the quarto dictionary, Mr. Webster has thought proper to publish in this pamphlet, by a liberal extract from the introduction to that work, his own repeated, but unwarrantable attacks upon Walker. Why this relentless warfare upon the dead, "*whose names were not known*?"

The truth of the matter is, Mr. Webster well knows that Walker did more than any other individual to render analogous the orthography and orthography of the language—that his principles are almost universally adopted in this country and in England—and that in that country as well as in this, "*the usage of well-bred people*" is derived from that author, instead of "forming a guide," as he would have us understand. How preposterous the idea that in a country like that of England, where science sheds her lucid beams with resplendent splendor, there should be in this branch of Philology no guide but the varying and capricious usage of "good society."

Mr. Webster has stated in the preface to this work, that "it is designed as an improvement on the *American Spelling-Book*;" and he also adds, "the classification, which was imperfect in that work, is here completed, and the few errors in orthography and pronunciation, which occur in that are corrected in this work." It is, therefore, presumed that neither Mr. Webster nor his friends will consider it unbecomingly to point out what I consider *erroneous, contradictory, and inconsistent* in the orthography, pronunciation, classification, arrangement, and division of words; more particularly, as the proprietor (Mr. Webster) had the work before him more than *two years*; and has therefore had an opportunity to correct any *thoughts* raised by the compiler (Mr. Ely.)

Before entering upon an examination of this work, I will state as page 29 what I consider the leading characteristics of such a Spelling-Book as I should deem worthy of a general introduction into our primary schools.

1. It should contain as great a number of the words in common use as practicable, to the exclusion of extraneous and irrelevant matter; as in any who attend our primary schools have neither opportunity of acquiring a correct knowledge of the elements of our language.
2. The *classification* of words should be judicious and distinct; and the system adopted be strictly and correctly adhered to.
3. The *arrangement* should be plain and simple, with a due regard to the expanding capacities and the progressive improvement of the learner.
4. In *orthography* and *orthography* it should correspond with the standard dictionary of the country; or strictly conform with the principles of the work it professes to follow; for the *dictionary*, and not the *spelling-book*, must be the standard of reference; and hence the importance for the uniformity and correctness of our language, that the latter work should be founded and carefully constructed upon the principles of the former.

CONTENTS.

This spelling-book comprises 128 pages, containing about nine thousand words, arranged in spelling lessons, interspersed with reading lessons, composed of detached sentences. In the selection of the words contained in the lessons for spelling, Mr. Ely seems to have used but little discretion, or discrimination; for, he has *not* inserted

\* Surely if the dictionary of Walker was heretofore not known even to Members of the British Parliament until they visited this country, such a circumstance can never hereafter happen where the publications of the American Lexicographer have found an introduction. The following is an extract from Mr. Webster's pamphlet, page 18. Thus, "Walker is not and never has been a standard author in England; and it is remarkable that the Members of Parliament, who visited this country a few years ago, said they had never heard of that author till they came to this country."





wrongly classed, it should be on page 114 where the sound of *th* is noted, and the scholar will not know until he shall arrive at page 114 whether *th* have the "aspirated" or "vocal" sound, and only then by seeing the primitive word *entrail* in which the sound is noted! Same column *amusement*, inserted again on page 162! On page 50 second column *symbol*, it is inserted again on page 73, and again on page 147! Same page third column *statute*, inserted again on page 163! Same page fourth column *ingate*, inserted again on page 58! Same page seventh column *triumph*, inserted again on page 135! On page 51 first column *urgatory*, inserted again on the next page (52)! Same column *necessary*, wrongly classed, should be on page 125 with words in which "c" accented or ending a syllable, has the sound of *s*! Same page second column *exemplary*, wrongly classed, it is inserted again on page 120 where it should be with words in which "x" passes into the sound of *g*! Thus, the scholar will pass seventy pages of the book after learning the orthography of *exemplary* before he will know its pronunciation! Same page third column *adversary*, inserted again on the next page (52)! On page 52 second column *presbytery*, and it is inserted again on page 67! Here on page 52 *presbytery* is classed with words which have "the primary accent on the first and the secondary on the third"; and on page 67 it is classed with words which "accented on the first" only! Same column *predatory*, inserted again on the same column! Same page third column *legislative*, *legislator*, *legislator*, all wrongly classed, should be on page 125 with words in which "g" ending a syllable, has the sound of *j*! *as vegetate*, &c. On page 51 third column *inclosure*, *disinclosure*, *composure*, *exposure*, and *foreclosure*, all wrongly classed, should be on page 122 in which *s* has the sound of *z*! These five words are all pronounced as *zh* in the octavo, but in the quarto *disinclosure* and *composure* only are so pronounced; *exposure* and *foreclosure* "as *z*" and *inclosure* is given without any notation how the *s* shall be pronounced! In the duodecimo the *s*, in all of them, is noted to represent *z*, and here Mr. Ely has them without any notation whether "as *z*," or as *zh*! On page 55 tenth column *law*, inserted again on the same page thirteenth column! Same page twentieth column *give*, wrongly classed, and it is inserted again on page 124 where it should be with "words in which *g* is hard before *e*, *i*, and *y*!" On page 53 second column *benefit*, wrongly classed, should be on page 141 with words in which *care*, *care*, &c. &c. are inserted! On page 50 second column *disinthal*, wrongly classed, should be on page 114 where *entrail* is inserted with the sound of *th* noted! Same page third column *overwhelm*, wrongly classed, should be on page 119 with words in which "h" is pronounced before *ie*" where *whelm* is inserted! Thus, the scholar will pass more than fifty pages after learning the orthography of *overwhelm* before he will know its pronunciation! On page 61 first column *actioner*, wrongly classed, should be on page 127 with "words in which *ce*, *ci*, *ti*, and *si*, are pronounced as *sh*!" Same page second column *flancher*, *brigadier*, *grenadier*, and *bombardier*, wrongly classed, they should be on page 137 with *ravager*, *corieller*, *cashier*, &c. &c.! Same page third column *coexist* and *preexist*, wrongly classed, should be on page 120 with words in which "j" passes into the sound of *gz*," where *exist* is inserted! Thus, the scholar will pass sixty pages after learning the orthography of *coexist* and *preexist* before he will know their pronunciation! Same column *overthrow*, wrongly classed, should be on p. 84 or 114 with words in which the sound of *th* is noted, where *throw* is inserted! On page 62 first column *compliment*, it is inserted again on page 94, and again on page 146! On page 63 sixth column *luxuriant*, wrongly classed, should be on page 120 with words in which "x" passes into the sound of *gz*," where *exuberant*, &c. are inserted, and the *x* is followed by an accented syllable beginning with a vowel. On page 64 first column *fallon*, wrongly classed, should be on page 139 with "words in which *i*, *e*, and *y*, before *n*, are mute!" Same page third column *congress*, wrongly classed, should be on page 134 with words in which "the sound of *ng* is close!" Same page second column *dolphin*, inserted again on page 104! On page 65 third column *gambit*, wrongly classed, and it is inserted again on page 124 where it should be with "words in which *g* has its hard sound, before *e*, *i*, and *y*!" On page 66 *rightful*, should be on page 125, where *g* is hard before *e*! On page 67 first column *vegetate*, wrongly classed, should be on page 125 with words in which "g" ending a syllable, has the sound of *j*," where *vegetate*, &c. are inserted! Same page second column *missionary*, wrongly classed, it should be on page 125 with words in which "the terminating syllable is pronounced *zh*," where *division*, &c. are inserted! Same column *missionary*, *dictionary*, and *stationary*, all wrongly classed, they should be on page 125 with "words in which *ce*, *ci*, *ti*, and *si*, are pronounced as *sh*!" Same page third column *casuistry*, wrongly classed, should be on page 122 with words in which *s* is pronounced as *zh*! [It is pronounced as *zh* in Webster's octavo dictionary.] On page 68 fourth column *sanguine*, wrongly classed, should be on page 134 with words in which "the sound of *ng* is close," where *logarithm*, &c. are inserted! Same page fifth column *spendthrift*, wrongly classed, should be on page 114 with words in which the sound of *th* is noted! Same column *surfeit*, inserted again same page seventh column! Same page seventh column *garden*, inserted again on page 73! On page 69 first column *gallicism*, inserted again on page 132 with "words ending in *ism*!" On page 70 second column *fourmishin*, inserted again on page 128 with words in which "g" is silent!" On page 71 first column *begin*, second column *beget* and *forget*, all three wrongly classed, should be on page 125 with "words in which *g* has its hard sound before *e*, *i*, and *y*!" *begin* is inserted again on page 125 where it should be, but *beget* and *forget* are not there inserted! Same column *whim*, wrongly classed, should be on page 115 with "words in which *th* have their vocal sound!" Same page second column *best*, inserted again on page 100! On page 72 third column *with* *draw*, inserted again on page 3, wrongly classed in both places, should be on page 115 with "words in which *th* have their vocal sound!" Same page eighth column *mongrel*, wrongly classed, it is inserted again on page 135 with "words in which "the sound of *ng* is close," where it should be! Thus, the scholar will pass more than sixty pages after learning the orthography of *mongrel* before he will know its pronunciation! On page 74 second column *shoulder*, inserted again on page 55! On page 75 second column *prognosticate*, inserted again on page 111, and is differently divided (prognosticate-prognosticate!) Same column *authentic*, wrongly classed, should be on page 114 with words in which the sound of *th* is noted! Same page third column *executive*, wrongly classed, and it is inserted again on page 120 where it should be with words in which "x" passes into the sound of *gz*!" Thus, the scholar will pass more than forty pages after learning the orthography of *executive* before he will know its pronunciation, that is, that *x* has the sound of *gz* in it! On page 78 third column *epoke* and it is inserted again on page 156, and *diffusely* spelled (opaque!) On page 79 third column *dethrone* and *enthroner*, wrongly classed, should be on page 114 with words in which the sound of *th* is noted! Same column *declare*, *insure*, *prepare*, and *compare*, all wrongly classed, and they are all inserted again on p. 141 where they should be, and *ensnare*, differently spelled! Same p., fourth column *beside*, wrongly classed, should be on p. 127 with *denier*, *frontier*, &c. On p. 81, *dragadocto* and *intercurrent* wrongly classed, should be on p. 127, with "words in which *ce*, *ci*, *ti*, and *si*, are pronounced as *sh*!" Same page second column, *metaphysical*, inserted again on p. 130! Same column *mathematics*, again on p. 130, wrongly classed in both places, should be on p. 114, with words in which the sound of *th* is noted, where *mathematical* is inserted! Same column *preexistent* and *coexistent*, both wrongly classed, should be on p. 120, with words in which "x" passes into the sound of *gz*," where *exist* is inserted! The scholar can not learn the pronunciation of these words until he shall arrive at p. 120! Same column, *overshadow*, wrongly classed, should be on p. 86, where *show* is inserted! Same column *regimental*, wrongly classed, should be on p. 125, with words in which "ending a syllable, has the sound of *j*," where *regiment* is inserted! On p. 83, sixth column *withal*, wrongly classed, should be on p. 115, where the sound of *th* is noted! On p. 84, third column, *thrill* is inserted twice in the same column! Same column *thought*, inserted again on p. 156! Same column, *throng*, *thing*, and *thence*, and *thence* and *thence* are inserted again on p. 144! On p. 85, third column *thursday* and *paucity*, both wrongly classed, should be on p. 114, where the sound of *th* is noted! *thursday* is inserted again on p. 114, but *paucity* is not! On p. 87, first column *raure* and *raure*, wrongly classed, should be on p. 122, where the *s* and *z* have the sound of *h*, as *grazer*, *fusion*, &c. Same column *ancient*, wrongly classed, it is inserted again on p. 127, where it should be with "words in which *ce*, *ci*, *ti*, and *si*, are pronounced as *sh*!" Thus, the scholar, after learning the orthography of *ancient*, must pass forty pages of the book before he will know its pronunciation! Same p. second column *caustic* it, wrongly classed, should be on p. 111, where *care*, *declare*, &c. are inserted! Same column *faithful* and *grateful*, and third column *theatrical*, all three wrongly classed, should be on p. 114, where the sound of *th* is noted! On page 88, first column *theatrical*, *measure*, and *treasure*, all wrongly classed, should be on p. 122, with words in which *s* has the sound of *zh*, as *basin*, &c. Same column *ensure*, *pressure*, and *fessure*, all wrongly classed, should be on p. 122, where *c*, *t*, and *s*, have the sound of *sh*! [S has the sound of *sh* in all these words in Webster's octavo dictionary, and in *ensure* and *fessure* in the quarto, but none of them are so pronounced in the duodecimo!] *Pleasure*, *measure*, and *treasure*, are inserted again on p. 127, with words in which "the vowel *e* of the prefix *en*, has no sound, and *r* is short, but it is not there stated that *s* has the sound of *zh*!" On page 89, first column, *significant*, inserted again on page 138! On page 90, first column, *integrity*, inserted again on page 169! On page 92, first column *imaginary* and *unnecessary*, both wrongly classed, should be on p. 126, with words in which "c" accented or ending a syllable, has the sound of *s*, and *g* that of *j*," as *imagination*, &c. on that page! Same column *confectionary*, wrongly classed, should be on p. 126, with "words in which *ce*, *ci*, *ti*, and *si*, are pronounced as *sh*!" On p. 93, *illegibility* and *fuselier*, wrongly classed, should be on p. 125 with words in which "g" ending a syllable, has the sound of *j*," as *legible*, *fragile*, &c. on that page! On p.

44, second column *insular*, and it is inserted again on the same p. next column! On p. 95, *superfluity* occurs *twice* in the same column! Same p. second column *sociability*, wrongly classed, should be on p. 137, with "words in which *ce, ci, ti, and si*, are pronounced as *sh*," where *social*, &c. are inserted! Same column *stingularity*, wrongly classed, should be on p. 134, with words in which "the sound of *ng* is close!" On page 109, first column *misgiving* and *forgive*, both wrongly classed, should be on p. 124, with "words in which *g* has its hard sound before *e, i, and y*," where *give* is inserted! Same p. fourth column *adopt* is inserted *twice* in the same column! Same column *among* and *belongs*, both wrongly classed, should be on p. 134, with words in which *ng* have "the open sound of *ng*;" *among* is inserted again on p. 134, where it *should* be, but *belongs* is *not*, although *long* is on p. (134)! On p. 103, second column *passionate*, wrongly classed, should be on p. 126, with "words in which *ce, ci, ti and si*, are pronounced as *sh*," or it should be on p. 108, where *passion* is inserted! On page 104, fifth column *stagger*, wrongly classed, it is inserted again on p. 125, where it *should* be, with "words in which *g* has its hard sound before *e, i, and y*!" Same p. seventh column *zealous* and *jealous*, wrongly classed, they are both inserted again on p. 137, where they *should* be, with words in which "the vowel *a* of the digraph *ea*, has no sound, and *e* is short!" On p. 105, third column *ingot*, wrongly classed, it is inserted again on p. 131, where it *should* be, with words in which "the sound of *ng* is close!" Same p. fourth column *zealot*, wrongly classed, it is inserted again on p. 137, where it *should* be! On p. 106, first column *henchman*, wrongly classed, should be on p. 135, with "words in which *c* before *h* has the sound of *k*!" On p. 107 third column *hutchman*, and fifth column *something*, both wrongly classed, should be on p. 114, where the sound of *this* note! Same p. seventh column, *headlong* wrongly classed, should be on p. 137, where *head* is inserted! On p. 108, first column *headache*, *toothache*, and *heartache*, all wrongly classed, should be on p. 123, with "words in which *c* before *h* has the sound of *k*," where *ache* is inserted! Same column *pregnant*, wrongly classed, inserted again on p. 138, where it should be! Same p. second column *pleasant* and *peasant*, wrongly classed, inserted again on p. 137, where they should be, with words in which "the vowel *a* of the digraph *ea* has no sound, and *e* is short!" Same p. third column *dayspring* wrongly classed, should be on page 134, where *spring* is inserted! On p. 109, first column *theocracy*, *philanthropy*, and *misanthropy*, all wrongly classed, inserted again on p. 111, where they should be, where the sound of *th* is noted! but *philanthropy* is differently divided on p. 114, thus phil-anthropy (109) phil-anthropy (111)! On p. 110 first column *traditional*, wrongly classed, should be on p. 127, with "words in which *ct* and *tl* are pronounced as *sh*, and are united to the preceding syllable," where *addition*, &c. are inserted! Same column *intentional*, wrongly classed, should be on p. 127, with "words in which *ce, ci, ti and si*, are pronounced as *sh*!" Same p. second column *exordium*, wrongly classed, it is inserted again on p. 120, where it should be with words in which "x passes into the sound of *gz*!" Thus, the scholar, after learning the orthography of *exordium* will pass on pages before he will know its pronunciation, viz. *ex-ord-ium* has the sound of *gz* in it! On p. 111, first column *triangular*, wrongly classed, should be on p. 127, with "words in which *ng* is close!" Same p. second column *epitome*, *agitated*, and *immortalize*, all wrongly classed, should be on p. 133, with "words ending in *ize*!" Same p. third column *occasional*, wrongly classed, should be on p. 122, where *o-casion* is inserted with words in which *s* has the sound of *sh*! Here on p. 111 the scholar can not learn how to pronounce *occasional* until he shall arrive at p. 122, where the pronunciation of the primitive word *occasion* is given! Same column *irational* and *proportional* wrongly classed, should be on p. 127, where "ce, ci, ti and si" are pronounced as *sh*!" Same p. fourth column *celebrated*, wrongly classed, should be on p. 120, where words in which "x passes into the sound of *gz*!" Thus, the scholar can not learn the pronunciation of this word any where in the book! Same column *originate*, wrongly classed, inserted again on p. 126, where it should be, but differently divided, thus, *origi-nate* (125)! Same p. fifth column *exasperate*, wrongly classed, inserted again on p. 120, where it should be, but differently divided, thus, *exasper-ate* (111). *exaspe-rate* (120)! On p. 112 first column *compassionate*, *dispassionate*, and *affectionate*, all wrongly classed, should be on p. 127, where "ce, ci, ti and si" are pronounced as *sh*!" Same p. third column *lethargic*, wrongly classed, inserted again on p. 114, where it should be, with the sound of *th* noted! Same p. fourth column *voracious*, fifth column *luxurious*, wrongly classed, should be on p. 120, with words in which "x passes into the sound of *gz*," as the *x* is followed by an accented syllable beginning with a vowel, as in *exordium*, *exuberant*, &c. p. 120! On p. 114 first column *thistle*, inserted again on p. 113, with words in which *t* is silent! Thus, the scholar will not know that *t* before *e* is silent; it is silent in *thistle* when he learns its orthography on p. 114! Same column next word *throats*, *t* is also silent, but *throats* is not inserted again on p. 143, so that the scholar will never learn in the Spelling-Book that *t* is silent in *throats*! Same column *throatle*, inserted again on p. 143! Same column *authorize*, inserted again on p. 132, with "words ending in *ize*!" Same column *thinable*, inserted again on p. 142! Same p. second column *catholic* and *plethoric*, inserted again on p. 131! Same column *authentic* and *pathetic*, third column *athletic* and *ca-thartic*, all inserted again on p. 129! Same column *atheistic* and *criticistic*, inserted again on p. 130, and both differently divided! Same column *methodical*, again on p. 131! Same column *polytheism*, again on p. 132! Same column *ichthyology*, again on p. 124! On p. 115, first column *clothes*, inserted again on p. 121! [All this repetition of words in the different lessons might have been avoided, had the system of classification been consistent and judicious. Thus, the word *clothes*, &c. in which there are two consonant sounds to be noted, the words should have been in the class of "Words of irregular orthography," on p. 151, where both peculiar sounds could have been noted by spelling the pronunciation of the words, as he has done on that page.] Same column *rather* and *rather* inserted again on p. 111! Same column *leather* and *feather*, again on p. 127! Same p. second column *burthen*, again on p. 138, with "words in which *e, i, and o* before *r* are mute," although the *e* is italic on p. 115, denoting that it is "mute"! Same p. third column *together*, again on p. 125! Same p. fifth column *distasteful*, sixth column *extinguish*, wrongly classed, should be on p. 134 with words in which "the sound of *ng* is close!" where *language*, &c. are inserted! On p. 118, fifth column *chasm*, wrongly classed, it is inserted again on p. 123, where it should be, with "words in which *c* before *h* has the sound of *k*!" On p. 110 first column *whiff*, inserted again on p. 140! Same p. third column *whistle* and fourth column *whistle* and *whistle*, all inserted again on p. 141! Same p. sixth column *whooping-cough*, wrongly classed, it should not be in this lesson, for there is no *w* in the word in any of Mr. Webster's Dictionaries, or in the Dictionaries of Johnson or Walker! On p. 120 second column *exaggerate*, inserted again on p. 126, and is differently divided, thus, *exage-rate* (120) *exagger-ate* (125)! Same p. third column, *exotic*, again on p. 131. On p. 121 first column *christian*, again on p. 123! same p. third column *exhaustion* and *exhaustion*. What sound has *x* in these words? Mr. Ely has told us in his "Analysis of sounds in the English Language," that *x* is sometimes pronounced as *gz*," but why it is so pronounced he has not informed us! whether because it is followed by an accented syllable beginning with a vowel or not. On page 122 third column *seraglio*, it is inserted again on p. 153, and is differently divided; thus, *seraglio* (122) *seraglio* (153)! On p. 123 first column *ache*, inserted again on p. 154! Same p. second column *cholic*, wrongly classed, it should not be in this lesson, for there is no *h* in the word in any of Webster's Dictionaries, or in the Dictionaries of Johnson and Walker! Same column *scirvous*, inserted with "words in which *c* before *h* has the sound of *k*," as there is no *h* in the word! Same p. sixth column *chemical*, inserted again on p. 141! On page 127 *whout* and *scholar*, &c. again on p. 129! Same column *chaotic*, again on p. 131! Same p. second column *epitome*, &c. again on p. 140! Same p. seventh column *giggle*, again on p. 142! On p. 125, first column *assault*, inserted again on the same p. next column! (In the first edition of this book, published in New York, *assault*, was inserted, in which *d* did not come before *e* or *i*; but the blunder was pointed out by a writer in the New York Observer and Inquirer, Sept. 9 1823, and *assault* had been struck out, and *assaultish* inserted in its place, although it was in the lesson before of Same p. third column *goggle*, wrongly classed, *g* does not come before *e* or *i* in the word! It is inserted again on p. 142! Same p. fourth column *girde*, *g* again on p. 142! Same p. fifth column *magic* and *tragic*, again on p. 129! On p. 126 first column *logic*, again on p. 128! Same p. third column *thunderer*, again on p. 155! On pages 97, 126, 127, and 128, are words in which *c, s, and t*, have the sound of *sh*.

In these lessons the terminations *ston, tion, cial, stial, stan, cian, tion, clate* are intermingled in such a manner that the scholar can not determine, when required to spell any word contained in these lessons, whether to use *c, t, or s*, the sound being the same: as *genston, nation, suspension, enactate, ingratiate*, &c.; and it is evident that the words in which *c, c, and s* have the sound of *sh*, should be classed in separate lessons for the same reasons that he has classed the words in which *ch* has the sound of *sh* and *ts*, as we learn their pronunciation by association, so should we learn the orthography of the other words referred to. On page 125 fifth column *noxious* inserted with "words in which *ce, ci, ti and si* are pronounced as *sh*," where there is no *ce, ci, ti, or si* in the word! On page 127 fourth column *debtious*, and it is inserted again on the same p. sixth column! Same column *officious*, fifth column *friction*, and they are both inserted again on p. 128! On page 128 *arithmetician*, *cholic*, and *ethnic* are so classed that the scholar will not know what sound *th* has in them, as they are not on p. 114 or 115 where the different sounds of *th* are noted! On p. 129 second column *philistic*, again on p. 155! Same p. fifth column *alchimic*, wrongly classed, should have been on p. 123 with "words in which *c* before *h* has the sound of *k*!" In this classification of the words ending in *ic*, Mr. Ely was not consistent or uniform;

thus, he has *catholic*, *athletic*, on p. 114, *mechanic* on p. 124, inserted where the sounds of *th* and *ch* are noted, and repeated here; but he has *synthetic*, p. 114, *chronic*, p. 123, &c. not repeated here in words ending in *ic*; and, again, he has *alchymic*, p. 153, *orthographic*, p. 150, *cholic*, p. 151, which are not on pages 114, 115, or 124, or 124, where the sounds of *th* and *ch* are noted!! Same column *evistic*, inserted again on p. 131, and differently spelled; same p. seventh column *pneumatic*, again on p. 155! Same column *theoric*, again on p. 155 differently spelled and accented, thus, *the-ori-ic* (129), *the-ori-ic* (155)!! On page 150 *alchymist*, *analitic*, *cosmotic*, *catecheti*, *chronologic*, *eucharistic*, *geologic*, *hypothetic*, *mythologic*, *machematic*, *orthographic*, *zenthetic*, *parenthetic*, *pathologic*, *philologic*, *philanthropic*, *pyrotechnic*, *synpathetic*, *theologic*, *theocratic*, *theoretic*, *zoologic* p. 151, *characteristic*, *en-thastic*, *entomologic*, *geneologic*, *ornithologic*, *ostologic*, *physiologic*, *ichthyologic*, *gothic*, *chimerical*, *illogical*, *whimsical*, *bismuthic*, *cholic*, *theoric* p. 152, *gallicism*, *proliferation*, *catholicism*, *monothism*, *huliotheism*, *rationalism*, *scholasticism* p. 153, *methoize*, *theorize*, *anathematize*, *bestialize*, *catholize*, *characterize*, *evangelize*, *nationalize*, *cheverilize*, have been inserted on these pages without any rule having been given, by Mr. Ely, for the pronunciation of *ch*, *th*, *g*, *wh*, and *s*, which occur in them! Thus, the scholar who consults the spelling-book only, will for ever remain unacquainted with their pronunciation! While *orthnetic*, *ethistic*, *chotic*, *cratic*, *polytheism*, *authorize*, &c. which occur on the same pages have been inserted on pages 114, 124, 150, &c. where the sounds of *th*, *ch*, *x*, &c. are noted! Hence Mr. Ely has every species of inconsistency imaginable, in the classification of the words on pages 130, 131, 132, and 133!

On page 132 fifth column *angelic*, inserted again on p. 131 with words in which "the sound of *ng* is close"! On page 133 third column *exorcise*, is inserted with "words ending in *ize*," but *exorcise* has not any *z* in it in any of Mr. Webster's dictionaries, or in the dictionaries of Johnson, Walker, &c.! On p. 137 second column *buccaneer*, with words in which "ch has the sound of *sh*, and *i* has the sound of *e* long," but *buccaneer* has no *ch* or *i* in it! and should be on p. 61, with *gaxteer*, *volunteer*, &c. Same p. fourth column *broath*, *breath*, *carth*, *dearth*, *theat*, fifth column *health*, *wealth*, *wealth*, sixth column *health*, *wealth*, *feather*, *leather*, *leathyn*, seventh column *threaten* with words in which "the vowel *a* of the digraph *ea*, has no sound, and *e* is short." Only two of these words (*feather* and *leather*) are inserted on pages 114, or 115 where the different sounds of *th* are noted, (all the others are here inserted on p. 137 without the sound of *th* being noted, so that their pronunciation can not be learned in any lesson contained in the spelling book.) Same p. sixth column *heaven* and *leaven*, seventh column *threaten*, inserted again on p. 139! On page 139, *terthen*, *green*, *strengthen*, *lengthen*, *thicken* p. 140, *wreathen*, *whatean*, *forgetten*, *christen* p. 142, *arheadie*, p. 114, *sociable*, *whalle*, have been inserted without any rule for the pronunciation of *th*, *wh*, *g*, *ch*, *c*, which occur in them! While *written*, *synthetic* p. 140, *thimble*, *giggle* p. 132, *wickle*, *whittle*, *thistle*, *whistle* p. 143, have been inserted on pages 119, 121, 141, where the sounds of *th*, *wh*, *g*, *ch*, &c. are noted! The preceding classification is a great inconsistency, entirely void of uniformity! On p. 141 sixth column *hazle* is inserted with "words in which *e* final after *i* is mute;" but *e* is not final in *hazle* in any of Mr. Webster's dictionaries, or in the dictionaries of Johnson or Walker! The word is, therefore, wrongly classed.

On the last part of page 141, and the first part of page 145, Mr. Ely has given a class of "words nearly, but not exactly alike in pronunciation." Of these he has given *eighty-seven*; and, he might with as much propriety, have given *five hundred*; other words in the language, as these *eighty-seven*; for the pronunciation of these is no more "nearly, but not exactly alike," than *hundred* of others in the language! That is, agreeably to the pronunciation of Mr. Webster's dictionary. Albeit Mr. Ely has stated that these "words" are "nearly" alike in pronunciation, yet he has not given the pronunciation of any of them in this lesson; and he has not, in any of the preceding spelling lessons, given more than *forty-nine* of these words; and, consequently the scholar will never know from the use of this spelling-book, how to pronounce these *eighty-seven* words which Mr. Ely says are "nearly, but not exactly alike in pronunciation," not knowing what that "pronunciation" is! as, are, accept, except, accede, exceed, acre, allusion, acts, ax, ally, allowed, errand, errand, ballad, ballot, clubs, close, consort, dost, immerge, emtre, gesture, jester, lot, impo, tor, imposture, naughtily, ingenious, pint, radish, wraith, slake, since, sense, tenure, talents, talons, and value, are not pronounced in any spelling lesson of the book! but, air p. 45, affect, effect p. 71, anchor 123, access, excess p. 75, illusion, illusion p. 152, ally p. 24, assay p. 25, essay p. 25, abscission, effusion p. 122, aloud p. 72, arrant p. 108, addition, edition p. 127, ballad p. 34, crank p. 39, creek p. 39, concert p. 85, abscission, effusion p. 122, aloud p. 72, disease p. 83, dust p. 21, elicet, illicit p. 136, earth p. 137, iron p. 24, fat p. 27, harsh p. 27, harsh p. 117, idle p. 143, knotty p. 156, insectivore p. 58, mouse p. 52, moss p. 52, line p. 22, loan p. 37, loan p. 37, loan p. 40, medal p. 50, meddle p. 142, point p. 37, shack p. 31, tear p. 42, valley p. 21, are pronounced on the preceding pages; some of these words here given as being "nearly" alike in pronunciation, are very distinctly different; as *air* (to long) are (a flat), as distinctly different sounds as any two in the language! *are* is not pronounced in the Spelling Book, neither is the word to be found in Webster's second dictionary, but in his quarto he says "it is usually pronounced *ar*" (a flat), and in his octavo he does pronounce it *ar* (a flat) *ally* and *ally* are differently accented; *decease* and *disease*; *e* long in the first syllable, and *e* sharp in *decease*, but *i* short in the first syllable, and *s* like *z* in both syllables in *disease*, not very "nearly alike" in pronunciation! *dost* and *dust*; *dost* is not pronounced in the Spelling Book, or in Webster's second dictionary, and the word is not to be found in Webster's school dictionary, which is, of course, to be used with the Spelling Book; but in Webster's octavo dictionary, it is pronounced with *o* like *u* short, so that these two words p. 145, *dost* and *dust* are not "nearly" but "exactly" alike, if Mr. Webster's octavo dictionary be the "STANDARD!" *pint* (i long) *point* (oi diphthong) these are not very "nearly alike in pronunciation" &c. &c. &c.

On page 145, Mr. Ely has given a class of "words of the same orthography, but differently pronounced!" Of this class of words, there are in the language, (acknowledged by Mr. Webster in his dictionaries,) about one hundred and sixteen, that is, differently accented and pronounced, when differently applied. Of these Mr. Ely has classed but *twenty-one*, in this lesson p. 145! We might reasonably suppose that Mr. Ely would insert all of these words, subject to different pronunciation or accentuation when differently applied, if any, in a lesson of this kind p. 145; for the scholar would, most unquestionably conclude, when looking at the title of this lesson, that Mr. Ely has classed all of them; and, with this conclusion, would for ever remain ignorant of the fact, from the use of this lesson, that there are in the language, NINETY-FIVE other "words of the same orthography, but differently pronounced" or accented, similar to the TWENTY-ONE which he has classed! Again, Mr. Ely has, in the preceding lessons, intermingled NINE of these *twenty-five* words with their different accentuation or pronunciation noted; as, *concert* pages 85 and 144, *contest* pp. 35 and 78, *contract* pp. 6 and 71, *temper* pp. 71 and 105, *object* and *subject* pp. 64 and 71, *rebel* pp. 41 and 150, *refuse* pp. 43 and 85, *see* pp. 45, 55, and 149, which are not here classed on p. 145! and the SIXTY-ONE following words are inserted with only one accentuation or pronunciation noted, neither can we learn from his spelling-book that they ever should be differently accented or pronounced; as, *concrete*, *convoy* p. 28, *house*, *mouse* p. 36, *use* p. 57, *close* pp. 37 and 144, *rise* pp. 37 and 149, *cont* p. 28, *grace* p. 39, *substitute* p. 49, *minute* p. 50, *frequent* p. 55, *over-flow*, *overthrow* p. 61, *object*, *instinct*, *progress* p. 64, *descent* p. 68, *counter-march* p. 70, *prefig*, *augment*, *abstract*, *affix*, *extract*, *insult*, *object*, *collet*, *conduct*, *conflict*, *project*, *compact* p. 71, *impress* p. 75, *digest*, *import*, *transport*, *e-convict*, *comp*, *desert*, *e-contrast*, *convert*, *protest* p. 76, *retail* p. 78, *supine*, *confine*, *console* p. 79, *abuse*, *excuse*, *diffuse* p. 82, *transfer*, *converse*, *converse* p. 164, *tenant* p. 161, *absent*, *present*, *convent* p. 105, *accent* p. 105, *exile* p. 120, *precedent* p. 135, *raven* p. 139, *consort* p. 144, *lead* p. 148, are inserted with but one accentuation or pronunciation in any of the spelling lessons of the book! Again; there are TWENTY-FIVE other words of this class, subject to different accentuation or different pronunciation when differently applied, of which the scholar will for ever remain ignorant unless he shall refer to some other source than the *Elementary Spelling-Book*, as they are not in any of the spelling lessons with either accentuation or pronunciation; as, *fore-taste*, *pre-sage*, *export*, *honour*, *discord*, *re-ward*, *col-locate*, *pre-duce*, *con-act*, *in-cense*, *un-dress*, *dis-count*, *con-fect*, *com-press*, *com-plot*, *com-pound*, *con-tribute*, *con-fermand*, *mis-con-duct*, *dis-sue*, *put*, &c. &c. and these words which Mr. Ely has entirely omitted are as important as those he has inserted! Several of the preceding class of words are pronounced or accented but one way in Mr. Webster's *duodecimo* dictionary; but are two ways in Mr. Webster's octavo dictionary! As perfume, honour, discord, colleague, object, entrance, discount, confect, instinct, mouse, and frequent. The word entrance is spelled with *s*, when *u* verb, in Mr. Webster's quarto, but with *c* in his octavo! In his duodecimo published in 1850, he spelled it with *c*, agreeing with the octavo; but in the edition published in 1831, it is spelled entrance with *s*, agreeing with the quarto! Thus if we take the octavo or duodecimo of 1830, for the standard, entrance, verb and noun, should be spelled alike, differently accented; but if we take the quarto or duodecimo of 1831 for the standard, they should not be in this lesson, being spelled differently! [Surely Mr. Ely would have been in a dilemma relative to the orthography of this word had he not used "Walker's Rhyming Dictionary, London edition, 1824," when classing these words.]

On pages 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, and 150, Mr. Ely has given a lesson of "Words pronounced alike, but different in orthography." This is one of the most important lessons contained in any Spelling Book; for, unless these words are associated with their respective distinctive definitions, it is impossible for the scholar to become ac-





music) does *not* appear at all in Webster's school dictionary, and this class (base, low, vile, and bass in music) does *not* belong in this lesson! bault, (to sift) does *not* appear in Webster's school dictionary, and this class (bolt, a fastening to a door, and bault, to sift) does *not* belong in this lesson! casque, (a helmet) does *not* appear in Webster's school dictionary, and this class (cast, a vessel for liquids, and casque, a helmet,) does *not* belong in this lesson! dracum, (a small weight) does *not* appear in Webster's school dictionary, and this class (drum, a drink of spirit, and drachm, a small weight) does *not* belong in this lesson! nought (none) is *not* the preferable spelling in Webster's school dictionary, and this class (naught, bad, and nought, none) does *not* belong in this lesson! nett (clear of charges) does *not* appear in Webster's school dictionary, and this class (net, a woven snare, and nett, clear of charges) does *not* belong in this lesson! ouse (tanners' bark) does *not* appear in Webster's school dictionary, and this class (ooze, to issue out, and ouse, tanners' bark) does *not* belong in this lesson! route, (a way or course) is *not* the preferable spelling in Webster's school dictionary, and this class (rout, a confused quarrel, and route, a course or way) does *not* belong in this lesson! seine, (a fish net) is spelled *contrary* to Webster's dictionary; should be sein! [In Mr. Webster's quarto and octavo dictionaries he says under the word net: "it is sometimes written *nett*, but improperly." yet Mr. Ely has inserted *nett* in this lesson!!] Thus Mr. Ely has inserted in this lesson EIGHT classes of words pronounced alike, but *different* in orthography; while they are in Webster's dictionary with but *one* orthography!

Tenthly:—Mr. Ely has, in this lesson, on p. 146 second column, inserted cent, sent and scent, with their distinctive definitions; and, he has inserted sent and scent *again* on p. 149, first column!! On p. 147, *dun* and *nap* are inserted *twice*! On p. 119, he has "rear, to raise," and "rear, the hind part," with rear spelled *alike* in both cases; yet Mr. Ely has classed it here with "words pronounced alike, but DIFFERENT in orthography"!!!! Same page 149, Mr. Ely has inserted "shore, sea coast," and "shore, a prop," with shore spelled *alike* in both cases; yet he has classed it here with "words, different in orthography"!! [In Mr. Webster's *old* Spelling-Book, he had, on p. 148, "shore, side of a river," and, "shoar, a prop," a blunder which he evidently copied from Dilworth's Spelling-Book. This blunder Mr. Ely corrected, either by the assistance of Walker's Rhyming Dictionary, London Edition 1824, (See Introduction to this review p. 6.) or from the criticism which appeared in the Albany Argus (see p. 32,) yet he has retained the word in this lesson with words different in orthography!!!! The definitions of some of these classes are rather singular, as "nap, on cloth;" "Jane, a weather-crack," &c. &c. [See Webster's school dictionary, in which they are *not* thus defined.] On pages 150, 151, 152, 153, Mr. Ely has given short sentences, in which the words of distinctive definitions are exhibited, as, "What *ails* the child?" &c. &c. In these sentences Mr. Ely has inserted *letter* and *lectur*, *calendar* and *calinder*, *meal*, *feer* and *fee*, *peaks* and *picque*, *peer* and *plyer*, *poze* and *poze*, *with*, *sign*, *three* and *through*, *strait* and *straight*, *tail* and *tale*, &c. when he has not classed one of them with the words of distinctive definitions! On p. 154 and 155, Mr. Ely has given a class of "words of irregular orthography." This lesson contains a great many words which were in the lesson containing words of distinctive definitions, and, therefore, as the pronunciation of those words is *not* given, this lesson (p. 154) should have preceded the words of distinctive definitions, or their pronunciation be given to avoid the repetition of them here; as p. 154, beau, been, ise, one, done, would, dough, neigh, sleigh, weigh, hough, p. 155, seignior, &c.!

On p. 155, he has a class of words in which "h after r is silent," and on p. 152 he has *retoric*, and on p. 126 *rallococeros* with *h* italic; and they are inserted *again* in this lesson!

On p. 156, Mr. Ely has a class of words of which he says, "in the following, *ue* at the end of the primitive word are silent;" and he has inserted *roughish* in this lesson, in which there is *no ue*! again, he has *roguey*, in which the *ue* are not silent in Webster's octavo, but are in his school dictionary! And again, he has *roguey* and *opaque* in this lesson, wrongly spelled and classed, as they are both spelled without *ue* in Webster's school dictionary, thus, *mosk* and *opaque*!!

A great evil attending this system of classification by terminations, is, that the scholars will, in many instances, obtain the habit of a monotonous sing-song pronunciation; and, the system also leads, in a great many instances, to error in the pronunciation of the terminating syllable; thus, on p. 124, fourth column, *chilblain*, *villain*, *mortmain*, *plantain*, *vervain*, *curtain*, in which the sound of *ai* should be changed *three* times in sounding the six words, from long *a* to short *i*, and from long *i* to short *a*! The scholar will, as they are now classed, naturally pronounce them *all* with a long *a*, or *all* with *i*-short! Same page second column, animals and entrails, and no rule is given for their pronunciation. The scholar will, most unquestionably, be inclined to pronounce both terminations with a short, or a long. The same may be said of the next two words *mitens* and *summons*, in which terminations they will pronounce the *e* and *o* alike, &c. &c. examples of which may be seen on almost every page of the book, where there are spelling lessons.

#### ARRANGEMENT.

Next in importance to the proper classification of words intended for spelling lessons, containing the different and peculiar vowel and consonant sounds, is the due arrangement of the words thus classed, according to the ease or difficulty with which their orthography and pronunciation are learned.

Thus, on page 29, Mr. Ely has inserted monosyllables containing *ee*, on p. 30, those containing *oo*, and on p. 32 those which contain *ai*, *bb*, *gg*, *ll*, *ss*, *rr*, as bees, breeze, cece, odd, ebb, egg, pass, parr, &c. and page 36 in which *zee*, *teh*, *pp*, *mp*, &c. as ridge, scratch, sylph, nymph, &c. But, on p. 42, he has words with *a*, *i*, and *o* long, as blade, slide, choke, p. 43, spike, blance, p. 47, time, drone, brave, drove, which are much more easy for the scholar to learn than those on pages 27, 30, 32, and p. 36, preceding them as noted above! Again, Mr. Ely has a class of monosyllables on p. 117 which are more easily learned than those on pp. 29, 30, or 31, again, Mr. Ely has, on pages 51 and 52, inserted words of four syllables, and on p. 61, he has *easy* words of two syllables! He has a class of words of three syllables on pages 82 and 84, and words of four syllables much more easily learned on pages 86 and 87! On page 84, he has difficult monosyllables in which the sound of *th* is exhibited, and on p. 117, thirty pages after them, he has *easy* monosyllables! On pages 124 and 125, he has words in which *g* is hard before *e*, *i*, and *u*, which is one of the most *easy* lessons in the spelling-book, placed after the words in which *g* has the sound of *g*, p. 120, *t* the sound of *t*, p. 121, *l* the sound of *l*, p. 122, *s* and *z*, the sound of *zh*, p. 122 and 123, *ch* like *k*, p. 123, which are the most *difficult* lessons in the spelling-book! On p. 131, he has words in which *er* has its own and close sound, which is one of the most *easy* lessons in the book, placed after the words in which *e*, *a*, and *i*, have the sound of *el*, on pp. 125, 127, and 128, which are the most *difficult* in the language! And again, the words which end in *le* on pages 141, 142, 143, and 144, are placed after ten lessons, the orthography of which is more *difficult* to be obtained, than that of the lessons preceding, or after, it. Thus, I think it will appear evident to every person, on examination, that these lessons are *not* arranged with due regard to the ease of learning their orthography or pronunciation.

#### ORTHOGRAPHY.

There is, perhaps, no branch of education by which the learned and the illiterate are so readily and so generally distinguished, as that of spelling. So universal is the condemnation of bad spelling, among all classes of citizens, whether professional, mercantile, or mechanical, that no person, it is believed, can be found who would be willing to be identified with it. The subject of orthography, therefore, is of primary importance in the education of children, and should engage the attention of parents, and all teachers more especially, since it may fairly be assumed that one third of the whole time spent in acquiring a useful education, is devoted to this particular branch.

I will now show, that, although Mr. Ely has, in the orthography of the *Elementary* Spelling-Book, avoided most of the errors in spelling pointed out in the Albany Argus in 1827, [see page 22,] yet he has spelled other words contrary to ALL of Webster's dictionaries; so that the orthography of the *new* spelling-book is MORE ERRONEOUS than that of the *old* one!

First:—Mr. Ely has spelled a great many words *contrary* to all of Webster's dictionaries, but *agreeably* to Johnson, Fox and Walker!

Secondly:—Mr. Ely has spelled a number of words *contrary* to the orthography of Webster's duodecimo school dictionary, "has *lost* words, all written and corrected by himself," but *agreeably* to either Webster's octavo or quarto dictionary!

Thirdly:—Mr. Ely has spelled a number of words *contrary* to ALL of Webster's dictionaries, but *agreeably* to Webster's *old* spelling-book!

Fourthly:—Mr. Ely has spelled a number of words *contrary* to ALL Webster's dictionaries, *contrary* to his *old* spelling-book, and also *contrary* to the orthography of Johnson and Walker!!

Fifthly:—Mr. Ely has also spelled the *same* words in two DIFFERENT ways, while it is spelled but *one* way in all of Webster's dictionaries!!

Sixthly.—Mr. Ely has frequently spelled a word but *one* way, while it is spelled *two* ways in Webster's dictionaries; and, he has sometimes given the orthography which Mr. Webster has preferred, by placing it first in his dictionaries, and at other times he has given that which Mr. Webster has *not* preferred!

Thus, on page 8, Mr. Ely has *brazier*, agreeably to Webster's dictionaries, and on page 122 he has it *brazier*, *contrary to all of them!* On page 13, *trissyllable* with *ss*, *contrary to all Webster's dictionaries!* On page 20, he has spelled *rud* (rudl.) *contrary to Webster's dictionary!* On page 21, he has spelled *dum* (dumz.) *contrary to Webster's dictionary!* Same page *ren*, and it is *oren* in Webster's dictionary! Same page *bun*, and it is spelled *lun* and *bunn* in Webster's school dictionary! Same page 21, *not* agreeably to Webster's dictionary, and it is spelled *teat* on the same page, *contrary to Webster!* On page 22, *judge*, and it is spelled *fugue* in Webster's dictionary! Same page 23, *cate*, spelled *kate* in Webster's dictionary! On page 23, *brunt*, and it is spelled *brant* in Webster's school dictionary! On page 24, *clapt*, *blest*, *drest*, *curst*, and they are spelled *chapped*, *blessed*, *dressed*, and *cursed* in Webster's school dictionary!! Same page 24, *cist*, and it is spelled *cyst* on page 8, and in all Webster's dictionaries!! On page 25, *stoop*, and it is spelled *scap* on page 47, and in Webster's school dictionary! Same page 26, *sted*, and it is spelled *steal* on page 137, and it is spelled in these two ways in Webster's dictionaries! but *stead* is placed *first* in the dictionary, and Mr. Ely has *sted* first in the spelling-book, so that the scholar who learns *sted* on page 26, will pass one hundred and ten pages before he will know Webster's preferable spelling *stead*!! On page 27, *cranch*, *contrary to Webster's quarto and octavo dictionaries*, but it is spelled *craunch* and *cranch* in the school dictionary, but *craunch* is placed first as the preferable spelling in that dictionary; Mr. Ely has therefore, spelled it *contrary to all of them!* On same page 27, *hanch*, *contrary to Webster's quarto and octavo*, but in the school dictionary he has it *hanch*, *haunch* in one place, and *haunch* and *hanch* in another; thus, alternately giving each spelling a preference by placing it first!! On page 29, Mr. Ely has spelled *sneak*, *contrary to Webster's dictionary*, but on page 39, he has spelled it *sneak*, agreeably to Webster! On page 30, *ton*, *contrary to Webster's dictionary*, and on page 150, he has spelled it *ton*, agreeably to Webster! On page 31, *stick*, *contrary to Webster's school dictionary*, in which it is spelled *steek!* [*Steek* is the vulgar pronunciation of *steek!*] On page 32, *scul*, *contrary to Webster's school dictionary*, in which it is spelled *scald!* On same page 32, *bur* and *bur* two ways, and but *one way* (bur) in Webster's dictionary! On same page 33, *trass*. The word is *not* in Webster's school dictionary, but in the quarto and octavo it is spelled *tarrace*, *tarrass*, *terrass*, and *trass*, and Mr. Ely has taken the orthography least preferred by Mr. Webster, or the shortest spelling!! On page 35, *confrey* and *confry* in Webster's school dictionary; but it is spelled *three ways* in Webster's quarto and octavo dictionaries, thus, *confrey*, *confry*, and *confrey!* On page 37, *phems*, and *feam* in Webster's dictionary! Same page 37, *coif* and *quof*, but *coif* is the preferable word in Webster's dictionary! On page 40, *men*, and on page 148, it is spelled *uten!* On page 41, he has *vilany* with *y* in the second syllable, *contrary to the preferable spelling* in Webster's quarto, but agreeably to Webster's school dictionary! On page 42, *splice*, *contrary to Webster's school dictionary*; but it is spelled *spise* and *spise* both ways in Webster's quarto and octavo dictionaries! On page 43, *pedary*, agreeably to Webster's school dictionary, but *contrary to the quarto and octavo!* On page 43, *chints*, *contrary to Webster's school dictionary*, but agreeably to his quarto and octavo! Same page 45, *shoe* and *shou* two ways, but *one way* (shou) in Webster's school dictionary! On page 47, *haunt*, *flaunt*, and *vaunt* but *one way*, and they are all spelled *two ways* in Webster's school dictionary! On page 49, *entallment* and *inthalment* in all Webster's dictionaries! On page 50, *hillock*, *hemlock*, and *mattock* with *k*, *contrary to Webster's octavo*, but agreeably to his quarto and school dictionaries! On page 55, *plow*; spelled two ways in Webster's octavo dictionary! On p. 56, *leger*, and *leger* is the preferable spelling in Webster's school dictionary! Same page 56, *sarchel*, *contrary to all Webster's dictionaries*, but agreeably to his old spelling-book! On page 59, *panada*, but *penada* is the preferable spelling in Webster's school dictionary! On same page 59, *potato*, *contrary to Webster's quarto*, but agreeably to his school dictionary! Same page *maneuver* and *mclassess*, and *maneuver* and *mclassess* is the preferable spelling in the octavo! On p. 61, *debonair*, *contrary to all three of Webster's dictionaries* (debonair), but agreeably to his old spelling-book! On same p. 61, *entry*, and in Webster's school dictionary, he says, "*entry*, a corruption of the word *sentinel!*" Same p. *entry*, and *wintery*, in Webster's dictionary! p. 62, *tilly*, and *tily* Webster's dictionary! p. 62, *holiday*, spelled *hohday* in the dictionary! p. 64, *ribba* and *porpess*, and *ribban* and *porpess* is the preferable spelling in Webster's octavo dictionary! Same p. 64, *ribba*, two syllables and it is spelled *gordian*, three syllables, in Webster's dictionaries! Same p. *griffin*, spelled *griffon* in Webster's dictionaries! On p. 65, *gimblet*, spelled *two ways* in Webster's octavo dictionary, thus, *gimblet*, *gimlet!* On p. 68, *currulous* with *rr*, but with *single r* in Webster's school dictionary! On p. 70, *almanack* with *k*, but it is spelled without *k* in Webster's octavo dictionary! Same p. *laurent*, and *laurate* in Webster's dictionaries! Same p. 70, *pumpion* and *pumpkin*, and it is spelled *piumpkin* in Webster's school dictionary! On p. 73, *handzel* and on p. 137 *hansel*; and it is spelled *hansel* only in Webster's dictionary! *hansel* is agreeably to Webster's old spelling-book! Same p. 73, *syvan*, spelled *alvan* in Webster's school dictionary! On p. 75, *unmixt*, and *unmixed* is the preferable spelling in Webster's school dictionary! On p. 75, *millennal* with *nn*, spelled with single *n* in all three of Webster's dictionaries! On p. 78, *epais*, agreeably to Webster's quarto and octavo dictionaries, but on p. 156, it is spelled *epoque* agreeably to Walker and to the preferable spelling in Webster's octavo! On p. 79, *insanare* agreeably to Webster's dictionaries, but on p. 111, it is spelled *ensanare* *contrary to them!* Same p. 78, *racoon*, spelled *c* *contrary to Webster's quarto and octavo dictionaries*, but agreeably to his school dictionary! Same p. 79, *patroon*, and it is spelled *patroon* in all three of Webster's dictionaries!

On p. 81, *bastinado*, four syllables, spelled *lastinado*, three syllables, in Webster's school dictionary! On p. 82, *cul-tender*, and it is spelled *culinder* in all three of Webster's dictionaries; thus, there are *three tenders* in this word, a first syllable, one *t*, and a in the second syllable in Webster's dictionaries, and a first syllable, *l*, and *e* in the second syllable in the spelling-book!! On p. 83, *villanous*; *villanous* is the preferable spelling in the octavo and quarto! Same p. 83, *vichal*, *l*, and it is spelled *vichal* single *l* in Webster's quarto and octavo, but with *ll* in his school dictionary! On p. 81, *thepel*, spelled *thel* in all Webster's dictionaries! Same p. *meth*, spelled *meathe* in Webster's octavo and quarto, but is *not* in his school dictionary!! Same p. 84, *hight*, and on p. 118, *hight*; it is spelled *hight* and *high* in Webster's school dictionary; in his quarto, *hight*, *high*, and *hight*; but in the octavo *hight*, *high*, and *high*!! Same p. *thresh* and *thrash* spelled two ways and but *one way* in Webster's dictionary! Same p. 84, *trumb*, and *trum* without *b* is the preferable spelling in Webster's quarto dictionary! Same p. *meathe* (verb) with final *e*, but without *e* is the preferable spelling in Webster's school dictionary! On p. 85, *trush*, and *trush* in Webster's dictionary! Same p. *trush*, spelled *trush* in Webster's dictionary! Same p. 85, *gipsy*, spelled *gipsy* in Webster's octavo, but *gipsy* in his school dictionary! On p. 86, *furton*, and *furlounch* is the preferable spelling in Webster's octavo dictionary! On p. 87, *hazinos* and *nightmar*, and *heinous* and *nightmare* is the preferable spelling in the octavo dictionary! Same p. 87, *tercel*, single *e*, spelled with *ee* in Webster's school dictionary, but with single *e* in his quarto and octavo! On p. 88, *turk*, *not* in Webster's school dictionary, but it is spelled *turk* in his octavo! On p. 89, *indiffidars* and *indiffidars*, spelled with *ff*, but they are both spelled with single *f* in all three of Webster's dictionaries! Same p. 89, *accouterment*, spelled *accoutrement* in Webster's octavo dictionary! On p. 91, *consistency*, four syllables, spelled *consistence*, three syllables, in Webster's school dictionary! On p. 93, *instrumentality* single *l*, *instrumentality* *ll*, in Webster's school dictionary! Same p. 95, *generalissimo*, with *ll*, and with single *l* in all Webster's dictionaries! Same p. *antidivarian*, *e* third syllable, but *in* Webster's dictionary! On p. 91, *chinter*, spelled *chinter* in Webster's school dictionary, but *not* in his quarto and octavo! Same p. *herick*, spelled *herick* in all Webster's dictionaries! On p. 91, *indolency*, five syllables, *inavertence*, four syllables, in Webster's school dictionary! On p. 99, *apposite*, spelled *opposit* in Webster's school dictionary, but *opposite* in his quarto and octavo! Same p. 99, *barbecue*, spelled *barbecue* in all Webster's dictionaries! On p. 103, *conitulate*, with *ll*, spelled with single *l*, in all Webster's dictionaries! On p. 106, *alcoran*, spelled *alcoran* and *koran* in all Webster's dictionaries! On p. 107, *milling*, single *d*, spelled with *dl* in all Webster's dictionaries! On p. 109, *heatche* and *heatche*, spelled without final *e* in Webster's quarto dictionary, but with *e* in the octavo; and they are spelled with final *e* in *all* in the school dictionary!! On p. 110, *millennium*, with *nn*, agreeably to Walker, and it is spelled with single *n* in all Webster's dictionaries! On p. 111, *innoculate*, with *nn*, spelled with single *n* in all Webster's dictionaries! On p. 112, *apoptical*, single *l*, spelled with *ll* in all Webster's dictionaries! On p. 113, *calculacion* and *calculacion* two different ways on the same page; Same p. *asbestos*, *asbestos* in dictionary! On p. 114, *threaning*, two syllables, spelled *threaning*, three syllables, in all Webster's dictionaries! Same p. *enthall*, spelled *enthall* in all Webster's dictionaries! Same p. *apothem*, spelled *apothem*, in Webster's school dictionary as the preferable spelling, and it is spelled *three ways* in his octavo and octavo! [See page 47.] On p. 115 and 134, *berthen* with *th*, and *berthen* with *d* on p. 134, and p. 163, spelled *berthen* only with *d*, in all Webster's dictionaries! On p. 51, *enumber*, spelled *ten ways* in Webster's dictionaries! On p. 115, *telier*, spelled *telier* in Webster's dictionary! On p. 119, *whiggin* with *g*, and *whiggin* with *gg* in all Webster's dictionaries! Same p. *whooning* with *wh*, and it is spelled without *wh*, *ll* in Webster's dictionaries, and in the dictionaries of Johnson and Walker! On p. 122, *postillon*, single *l*, spelled *postillon*, with *ll* in Webster's dictionaries! Same p. *brazier* with *z* and with *a* in Webster's dictionary! On 123, *cherisher*, spelled *cherisher* in all Webster's dictionaries! Same blunder in the old spelling-book [See page 52.] Same p. 123, *rethorick*; it is spelled *two ways* in all



SPECIMENS

OF

WEBSTER'S ORTHOGRAPHY.

All the words marked with an asterisk, were evidently copied from Dilworth's Spelling-Book, as they appeared the same in Dilworth's Spelling-Book, contrary to ALL of Webster's Dictionaries, and to the Dictionaries of Johnson and Walker; and they have been thus contradictory and erroneously spelled in Webster's old Spelling-Book for more than forty years!!!

Old Spelling Book, Dictionary 1806.	Dictionary 1817.	Quarto 1828.	Octavo 1831.	Duodecimo 1831.	New Spell. Book.
Abatable	Abateable	Abatable	do.	do.	
Abattis	do.	Abattis and Abatis	Abatis, Abattis	Abattis	
Abbay or Abby	Abbey	do.	do.	do.	
Abridgement	Abridgment	Abridgment	do.	do.	
Abscision	do.	do.	do.	do.	Abscision
Acacious	do.	Acacious	do.	do.	
Acceptor	do.	Acceptor	do.	Acceptor	
Accouter	Accouter or Accooter	do.	Accouter, Accooter	Accouter	
		Accountering	Accountring	Accountering	
		Accountered	Accountred	Accountered	
Ache	Accountments	Accountments	Accountments	Accountments	Ache do.
	Ache, Ake	do.	do.	do.	
	Aking	Aching, Aking	do.	Aching	
Achievment	do.	do.	do.	do.	
	Acknowledgment	Acknowledgment	do.	do.	do.
Acro	do.	do.	do.	do.	Acro do.
	Aere, Aker	do.	do.	do.	
	Admille	do.	Admille, Admille	Admille	
	Admittable	Admittable	do.	do.	
	Adventuresome	do.	do.	Adventurousome	
	Aery	Aerie	do.	do.	
	Aggroup	Aggroup, Aggroop	do.	Aggroup	
	Aglet, Aigulet	Aglet, Aiglet, Aigulet	do.	do.	
Aidecamp	do.	Aidecamp	do.	do.	
Ile	Aisle, Aile, Iis	do.	do.	A'isle, Aile	Aisle do.
		Alchimis	Alchimis	Alchimis	
		Alchimisical	Alchimisical	Alchimisical	
		Alchimisically	Alchimisically	Alchimisically	
		Alchimisist	Alchimisist	Alchimisist	do.
Alchymy	Alchymy	do.	Alchymy	Alchymy	do.
Alcoran	Koran	Alkoran, Koran	do.	do.	Alcoran
	Allege	do.	do.	do.	
	Alliceable	Alledgeable	do.	do.	
	Alleged	do.	do.	do.	
Almanac*	Almanack	do.	Allegation	Almanack	do.
	Ammony	Ammonia, Ammony	do.	do.	
		Ammony	do.	do.	
	Amphitheater	do.	Amphitheatre	Amphitheater, or Amphitheatre	
	Anastrophy	Anastrophe, Anastrophy	do.	do.	
	Anemony	do.	do.	do.	
Angle*	Ankle	do.	do.	do.	
	Anno to, anno to	do.	do.	do.	
	Antediluvian	do.	do.	do.	Antediluvian
	Antistrophy	Antistrophe, Antistrophy	do.	do.	
	Ano-ny	Ano-ny, Anopy	do.	no.	
	Apothegm	Apothegm, Apothem, Apothegm	do.	Apothegm, Apothegm	Apothegm
Apostacy	Apostasy	do.	do.	do.	do.
Apostrophe	Apostrophy	Apostrophe, Apostrophy	do.	do.	Apostrophe
		do.	do.	do.	
	Appellative	do.	do.	do.	Appellative
	Appoit	Apposite	do.	Apposit	Appoit
	Appositly	Appositly	do.	Appositly	Apposit
	Appositness	Appositness	do.	Appositness	Appositness
	Arquebuse	do.	Archebimic	Arquebuse	
	Harquebuse	do.	do.	do.	
Arrae	do.	Harquebuse	do.	do.	
Askance	do.	Arack	do.	do.	
Askant	do.	Askance	do.	do.	
Assigner	Assignor	Askant	do.	do.	
Assurely	do.	do.	do.	do.	
Assurer	do.	do.	do.	do.	Assurely
Assuring	do.	do.	do.	do.	Assure
Autocracy	do.	Autocracy	do.	Autocracy	
Avorlupois	do.	Avorlupois	do.	do.	
	Ax	do.	do.	do.	
	Ax (ves)	Ax, Aye	do.	do.	
	Baftas	Baftas, Baftas, Baftas	do.	Baftas	
Bailor	Bailer	do.	do.	do.	
	Bailiff	Bailer, Bailor	Bailiff, Bailif	Bailif	
Balse	Balze	Bailif (Cor.)	do.	do.	do.
		do.	do.	do.	
	Bannerol, Bandler	Bandler	do.	do.	
	Banne, Jannoc	Bandler	do.	do.	
	Barbacue	Barbacue	do.	do.	Barbacue
Bark	do.	Barbacue	do.	do.	
	Bark	Bark, Barque	do.	do.	
	Baso	do.	do.	do.	
Bass*	Baso	do.	do.	do.	Bass, Baso
	Basiviol	do.	Basiviol, Baseviol	Baseviol	Basiviol
	Basiliek	do.	do.	do.	Basiliek
	Basin, Basom	Basin	do.	do.	Basin

Old Spelling Book	Dictionary 1806.	Dictionary 1817.	Quarto 1828.	Octavo 1831.	Duodecimo 1831.	New Spell. Book.
	Basul		Bastile	do.	do.	
Batteau	Bastonade	Bastinade	do.	do.	do.	Bastinade
	Battoe	do.	Bateau	do.	do.	do.
	Battleax	do.	Battleax, Battleaxe	do.	Battleax	do.
	Bawble	do.	do.	do.	do.	Bawble
Bdellium	do.	do.	do.	do.	Bdellium	Bdellium
	Bedawb	do.	Bedaub	do.	do.	
	Bedcloaths	do.	Bedclothes	do.	do.	
Behaviour	Bedsted	do.	Bedstead	do.	Bedstead, Bedsted	do.
Behoove	Behavior	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
	Behoove, behove	do.	Behoove	do.	do.	do.
	Behooveful	do.	do.	do.	Behooveful	do.
	Belwether	do.	Bellwether	do.	do.	
Belleslettres	do.	do.	do.	do.	Belleslettres	
Benumb	Benum	do.	do.	do.	do.	
	Bergamot,	do.	Bergamot	do.	Bergamot,	Bergamot
	Burgamot	do.	do.	do.	Burgamot	
Birth	do.	do.	Eerth	do.	do.	
	Betel	do.	Betel, Betle	do.	do.	
		Bezil	Bezel	do.	do.	do.
	Bibacious	Bibaceous	Bibacions	do.	do.	
	Bice	do.	Bice, Bise	do.	do.	
	Bird	do.	do.	do.	do.	
	Blingsgate	do.	do.	do.	Bifed	
	Bipartible	do.	do.	do.	Bilingsgate	
	Blacknoore,	Blackamoor	Blackmoor	Blackamoor,	Bipartible	
	Blackmoor			Blackmoor	Blackmoor	
	Blamable	Blameable	Blamable	do.	do.	
		Blameableness	Blameableness	do.	do.	
		Blameably	Blamably	do.	do.	
	Blazon	do.	do.	do.	do.	
	Blessed, Bleat	do.	do.	do.	Blessed	Blazen
	Bloomary	do.	Bloomary	do.	do.	Bleat
	Bile (tumor)	Boil	do.	do.	do.	do.
Fault*	Bilt	do.	do.	do.	do.	Boult
Fombasin	Bombasine	do.	Bombasin	do.	do.	do.
Foose	do.	do.	Boose, Bouse, Booze	do.	Boose	do.
	Boozy	do.	Bosy, Bousy	do.	Boozy	do.
Eourn	Borne	do.	Borne, Bourn	do.	Borne, Bourne	Borne
	Burgeois	do.	Bourgeois, Burgois	do.	Bourgeois	
	do.		do.	do.	do.	Brazier
Brasier	Brazilwood	do.	Brazilwood	do.	do.	
Breadth	Breadth, breadth	do.	Breadth	do.	do.	do.
Brier, Briar	do.	do.	Brier	do.	do.	Brier, Briar
	Bridegroom	do.	Bridegroom	Bridegroom	do.	
	Brimful	Erimfall	Brimful	do.	Bridegroom	
Bronze	do.	do.	Bronz, Bronze	do.	Brimful	
	Bronette	Brunett	Brunet, Brunette	Brunette, Brunet	Bronze	
Buccanier	Buccaneer	Bucanneer	Bucancer, Bucanier	do.	Brunet, Brunette	Brunette
	do.	do.	Build, Bild	do.	Bucaneer	do.
Build	Builder	do.	do.	do.	do.	
	Building	do.	do.	do.	Builder, Bildr	
Built	do.	do.	do.	do.	Building, Bilding	
Burthen	Bur	do.	do.	do.	Built, bilt	Built
	Burden	do.	do.	do.	do.	Burr
	Burdoo	do.	Burtook	do.	do.	Burthes, Burdez
	Burgh	do.	Burgh, Burg	do.	do.	
	Burine	do.	Burin	do.	Burg	
Burlesque	do.	do.	Burlesque, Burlesk	do.	do.	
	Cacoon	do.	Caccoon	do.	do.	
	Caitiff	do.	Caitif (cor.)	Ca'tiff, Caitif	Caitif	
Calimanco*	Calamanco	do.	do.	do.	do.	
	Calamin	do.	Calamine, Calamin	do.	Calamine	do.
	Calcareous	do.	Calcareous	do.	do.	
Chalice	do.	do.	Calice	do.	Chalice	do.
Calico	Callico	Calico	do.	do.	do.	do.
	Caliph	do.	Calif	do.	Calif, Caliph	
	Caliphate	do.	Califate, Caliphate, Kalifate	do.	Califate	
	Camelleopard	do.	Camelopard	do.	do.	
	Camlet, camblet	do.	Camlet	do.	do.	do.
	Camphire, camphor	do.	Camphor	do.	do.	do.
	Canail	do.	do.	Canaille	Canail	
	Cancelled	do.	Cancelled	do.	do.	
	Cancellation	do.	Cancellation	do.	do.	
Cancelled	do.	do.	Canceled	do.	do.	
Cannonier	do.	do.	Cannonier, Cannoner	do.	Cannonier	do.
	Capillair	do.	Capilaire	do.	do.	
Carbinier	Carabinier, carabinier	do.	Carabineer	do.	Carbinier	do.
Carcass	Garcass	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
	Carmiu	do.	Carmine	do.	Carmiu, Carmine	
	Carnelian	do.	do.	do.	do.	
Cask	Cask, casque	do.	Cash	do.	do.	Cornelian
Catastrophe	Catastrophy	do.	Catsstrophe, Catastrophy	do.	do.	Casque
	Catcal	do.	Catcall	do.	do.	Catastrophe
	Catsup	do.	Catchup, Catsup	do.	do.	
	Caviller	do.	Caviler	do.	do.	
	Cazique, cazic	do.	Cazic, Cazique	do.	Cazeke, Cazique	
	Center	do.	do.	Centre, Center	do.	do.
		Cesarian	Centered	Centred	Centered	
		do.	Centering	Centring	Centered	
		do.	Cesaren	do.	Centering	
		do.	do.	do.	Cesarian	
		do.	do.	do.	Chagrined	do.
		do.	Champagne, Champane	do.	do.	do.
		do.	Champaign, Champaign	do.	Chamelion	do.
Champaign (county)	do.	do.	Changied	do.	do.	Champaign
Chace*	Channelled	do.	do.	do.	do.	
	Chase	do.	do.	do.	do.	
	Chemical	do.	Chemical	Chemical	do.	Chemical
	Chemically	do.	Chemically	Chemically	do.	
Chemist	do.	do.	Chemist	Chemist	Chemist	do.



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